



President of the Faculty Senate

TO : Faculty Senate
FROM: Andrew Wright, President of the UALR Assembly and Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Second Degree Inconsistencies
DATE: October 5, 2017
NUMBER: FSM-2017-1

When the general education requirements were revised (FS-2012-13_10, 5/3/2013), the legislation for the second degrees (2/15/2013) developed some problems, which the Faculty Senate needs to address in legislation. In the meantime, several of the issues that have arisen can be resolved through interpretation.

1. The first degree may be awarded at UA Little Rock or it may be accepted in transfer.

Although the legislation does not specifically address this issue, item 4 under “additional baccalaureate degrees” (“If not taken as part of another baccalaureate degree, a course in United States history or government ... must be completed.”) This statement is only meaningful if the first degree were awarded from an institution that did not have this as a requirement.

2. The program faculty must determine what is meant by “a different major.”

- a. When FS-2012-13_10 was passed, the degree requirements for a minor and for a second language were removed. Many programs established these as program requirements. It is unclear whether these requirements would be considered part of the major or as separate requirements.

Further, some programs (e.g., engineering), require specific general education courses as program requirements (e.g. calculus), even though these requirements are not listed as major requirements.

This point needs to be addressed through legislation; however, in the interim, the best body to interpret what is meant by the “requirements for a major” is the program faculty awarding the degree.

Further, the Faculty Senate needs to act to delete items 3 (minor) and 5 (second language) under “additional baccalaureate degrees.”

- b. Another consideration occurs when a student earns a degree at another university and transfers to UA Little Rock. Even though the name of the degree may be the same as a UA Little Rock degree, the requirements may be significantly different. It is unclear from the legislation and from the debate whether “different” meant “different name” or “different

requirements.” However, in all the other concerns regarding questions on the legislation, the program faculty was indicated as the authority to make such determinations. Therefore, the program faculty should make this determination as well.

- c. One method of creating a new degree is through the reorganization of an existing degree. This will leave two degrees with the same requirements for a period of time until each degree changes. So, there may be two degrees with the same requirements but different names. Are these “different majors?” This issue was not addressed in the legislation, and it is best for the program faculty to make this determination.

3. The catalog for each of the degrees may be different, although all requirements for the first degree must be drawn from the same catalog.

It is not explicit in the legislation that the catalog for each degree must be the same.

There are many circumstances where it will not be possible to satisfy the requirements on the same catalog.

Example: One degree is suspended after the student starts and another degree is added after the degree was suspended.

Example: A student transfers an already earned degree from another institution and undertakes a degree at UA Little Rock that was approved after the student completed the other degree.

The degree requirements state:

A student may elect to graduate under the provisions of the UALR Undergraduate Catalog in effect during any semester in residence at UALR before qualifying for a degree. Students who interrupt their enrollment at UALR for more than five consecutive calendar years must use the catalog current at the time of readmission or later. A student transferring to UALR from regionally accredited four year institutions, community colleges, or junior colleges with 13 or more hours of accepted credit may graduate under the provisions of a UALR Undergraduate Catalog in effect during any semester of the previous five years in which they were enrolled at the other institution. Note: At no time may a student follow the provisions of a UALR Undergraduate Catalog that is more than five years old at the time of the student’s entry into UALR.

Consequently, it is the student’s choice as to which degree will be the first degree and which will be the additional degree(s), and it is the student’s choice as to which catalog (within the restrictions above) that s/he will use for each degree.