

Charge to the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduation Requirements.

This committee is charged with implementing the new Baccalaureate Degree Requirements passed March 15, 2013 [<http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/Leg-FS-Baccalaureate-Degree-Requirements.pdf>].

This legislation deleted the minor requirement for programs not subject to disciplinary accreditation and replaced it with two requirements:

1. 12 hours of upper-level credit from outside the department; and
2. Upper-level courses and instruction in communication; in research methods, critical thinking, and ethics; and in technology.

Courses Outside the Major: With regard to this portion of the requirement, the committee is charged with revising and clarifying it since as written it does not address departments that have multiple programs. The English Department's Linguistics program is an example. There are linguistics courses for the Linguistics Minor that are not necessarily part of the English major, and it might be appropriate for English majors to use some of those courses to meet the 12-hour "outside the department" requirement.

Additionally, when the policy was passed, the Senate envisioned departments offering 6-, 9-, and 12-hour blocks of courses for the requirement, and the committee will need to develop ways to encourage this.

Upper-Level Courses or Components in Communication; Research, Critical Thinking, and Ethics; and Technology: With regard to the requirement that majors develop communications, research, critical thinking, ethics, and technology courses or components, the committee is charged with developing an implementation plan that includes

- a strategy for assisting departments to identify, revise, and develop these courses;
- an approval process for the new and revised courses;
- an identification of faculty development needs and a plan made in consultation with the Provost's Office and the Faculty Senate Leadership to provide necessary resources and support;
- management of procedural details such as entering the requirements into Banner and the Undergraduate Catalog; and
- plans and procedures for assessment and accountability.

The new Baccalaureate Degree Requirements will be implemented for the 2015-16 catalog, which means the committee will work from now until December 2014 (so courses can be in place for Fall 2015).

We thank you for your service.

Committee Members

Jeff Connelly, Earth Sciences

Jeremy Ecke, English

Lakeshia Jones, Mathematics and Statistics

Karen Kuralt, Rhetoric and Writing

Allison Merrick, Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies

Rob Ulmer, Speech Communications TBD, Technology

Joanne Liebman Matson, VP Faculty Senate, *ex officio* (non-voting) liaison with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee