



President of the Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Andrew Wright, President of the Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Mark-up of Policy 507.1. Degree Requirements
DATE: November 14, 2014

The Faculty Senate has made extensive revisions over the past year and a half to the Degree requirements; however, the policy has not been updated to reflect these changes. As we approach the implementation date, it is necessary for the Faculty Senate to review its policy prior to implementation.

This memo presents the accurate reflection of the current state of Policy 501.1 after amendments over the past two years. There will be additional amendments in the December Faculty Senate meeting to accommodate requirements in associate degrees which were changed as a result of changes in the general education policy. This memo will serve as the transitional document against which changes can be applied.

FS_2011-12_14 (see Faculty Senate minutes, <http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/03/FacSenMin-2012-30-March-2012-FINAL.pdf>, and Legislative Transmittal Form, <http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/11/2011.9.23.-TRANSMITTAL-OF-FACULTY-SENATE-LEG-Baccalaureate-Degree-Requirements.pdf>) in 3/30/2012 reduced the minimum number of hours to 120.

The Baccalaureate Degree requirements were changed on 2/15/2013 (see Faculty Senate minutes, http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/fac_sen_minutes_02_15_13_v2_APPROVED.pdf, and Legislative Transmittal Form, http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/Leg-FS_-2013-02_15-Replace-language-for-degree-and-graduation-requirements.pdf), to make it less restrictive to obtain a second degree.

The Baccalaureate Degree requirements were changed on 3/15/2013 (see Faculty Senate minutes, http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/fac_sen_minutes_03_15_13_v2_APPROVED.pdf, and Legislative Transmittal Form, <http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/Leg-FS-Baccalaureate-Degree-Requirements.pdf>), to add skills courses and to delete the minor.

FS_2013_14 (see Faculty Senate minutes, http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2013/12/FacSenMin-2013-11-15-draft_v1.pdf, and Legislative Transmittal Form, http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/FS_2013_14-Implementation-of-GenEd-Requirements.pdf) pushed back the implementation date to 1/1/2015.

FS_2014_19 (see Faculty Senate minutes, http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/10/FacSenMin-2014-9-19_v1.pdf, and Legislative Transmittal Form, http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/10/FS_2014_19-Upper-Level-Baccalaureate-Degree-Requirements.pdf) fixed the upper level requirement and split out the skills courses. The motion incorrectly refers to a deletion of the 45 upper-level hours requirement.

FS_2014_30 (see Faculty Senate minutes, http://calliope.ualr.edu/facultysenate/2014-2015/FacSenMin-10-24-14_v3.pdf, and Legislative Transmittal Form, http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/11/FS_2014_30-Baccalaureate-Degree-Requirements.pdf) pushed back the “skills course” implementation date.

Policy:

Baccalaureate Degree

To receive a baccalaureate degree, a student must complete ~~a minimum of 124~~ 120 hours (Academic majors and colleges may specify additional and /or more restrictive requirements) of which 30 hours must be in residence and 45 must be upper-level (3000 level or above). At least 15 upper level hours must be completed in residence. A baccalaureate degree program may require more than 120 semester hours of college credit if prior approval has been granted by the Board of Trustees or it is a requirement of an independent licensing or accrediting body.

Except for majors that must adhere to standards established by national accrediting agencies, students must select at least 12 elective hours outside their program in addition to the UALR Core Curriculum. majors must have a minimum of 45 hours of upper level credit, at least 12 hours of which, chosen by the student must come from other departments, and majors will include, as appropriate to the discipline

- ~~• a communication in the discipline course which covers writing and speaking,~~
- ~~• a course which covers research methods, ethics, and critical thinking, and~~
- ~~• instruction on technology within other required courses in the major.~~

Except in majors that must adhere to standards established by national accrediting agencies, major requirements must include courses or course-work either within or outside the department on ¹

- Oral and written communication in the discipline
- Research methods, ethics, and critical thinking
- Technology.

These required hours must include:

- I. A minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point on all work attempted at the University.
- II. A minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point on all work attempted in the academic major ~~and a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point on all work attempted in the academic minor.~~
- III. A core curriculum which must include a 3 hour course in U. S. history or U. S. government and a 3 hour course in College Algebra, College Math or higher level math course. See “Core Requirements for Bachelor Degrees.”
- IV. A major ~~and a minor, a combined major-minor, a double major or a major and an associate degree transferred from another institution in a program not offered at UALR.~~
- ~~V. Completion of the appropriate second language requirement for students seeking a BA, BSE, or BSW degree. See “Second Language Requirement.”~~

¹ FS_2014_30 pushed this requirement back to “before Fall 2016”

- VI. A baccalaureate degree seeking student in the process of completing more than one major may have one calendar year following graduation with one major to complete the additional declared major(s) if (1) the student has a valid degree plan on file which specifies requirements for more than one major and (2) if the student completes an application for graduation which indicates that a total of seven (7) or fewer hours remain to complete the additional major(s).

Associate Degree Requirements

Except for certain programs as specified by the program, all students receiving the associate degree (the AA or AS) must successfully complete at least 60 hours including the following 15 hours of core courses:

RHET 1311 Composition I

RHET 1312 Composition II

SPCH 1300 Speech Communication

HIST 2311 U.S. History to 1877, or HIST 2312 U.S. History since 1877, or POLS 1310 American National Government

MATH 1315 College Mathematics or MATH 1302 College Algebra

Graduation with an associate degree requires a C average (2.0 cumulative grade point average) on all work attempted at the University; completion of at least 20 hours above the freshman level, unless specified otherwise in the program; and completion of the final 15 hours (excluding credit by examination) in residence. Hours earned as credit by examination are counted as hours toward graduation but are not counted as hours in residence. See “Credit by Examination.”

Courses completed for an associate degree at UALR will be counted toward the appropriate requirements for the baccalaureate degree.

Second Associate Degree

An associate degree may be conferred as a second degree when the first degree is either a baccalaureate or another associate degree, subject to these provisions:

- The second associate degree must be in a different discipline from the first degree.
- Students must complete at least 15 credit hours in residence (excluding credit by examination) beyond their first degree.
- Only credit earned at UALR after completing the first degree will normally apply toward the second degree. However, students in their final semester of studies toward the first degree may complete the course load for that semester with courses applicable to the second degree. Students must file a written statement of their intent to seek a second degree with the Office of Records and Registration at

the time of registration.

- A major must be completed. Courses completed within the previous degree that satisfy requirements for the second major may be accepted as satisfying course requirements, but not as hours toward the second degree. These hours do not count as part of the 30, except as specified in Item 3 above.
- The core curriculum component in the second associate degree is not required. However, if not taken as a part of another baccalaureate degree, a course in United States history or government (HIST 2311, HIST 2312, or POLS 1310) must be completed. See “Policy 503.3. U.S. Traditions: United States History or Government Requirement.”

Second Baccalaureate Degree

~~A second Additional baccalaureate degree(s) may be conferred subject to these provisions:~~

- ~~Students must complete at least 30 credit hours in residence, including courses completed previously at UALR, but excluding transfer credit, credit-by-examination, experiential credit, and repeated courses. (excluding credit by examination) beyond their first degree.~~
- ~~Only credits earned at UALR after completion of the first degree will normally apply toward the second degree. However, a student in the final semester of studies toward the first degree may complete the course load for that semester with courses applicable to the second degree provided the student files a written statement of intent with the Office of Records and Registration at the time of registration.~~
- ~~A different major must be completed for each additional baccalaureate degree. Courses completed within the previous degree(s) that satisfy requirements for the second additional major(s) may be accepted as satisfying course major requirements for additional degree(s), subject to approval by the major department., but not as hours toward the second degree. These hours do not count as part of the 30, except as specified in Item 2 above.~~
- ~~A minor is not required for additional baccalaureate degrees.~~
- ~~If not taken as a part of another baccalaureate degree, a course in United States history or government (HIST 2311, HIST 2312 or POLS 1310) must be completed, see “Policy 503.3. U.S. Traditions: United States History or Government Requirement.” However, other general education requirements are not applicable to additional baccalaureate degrees.~~

(Academic majors and colleges may specify additional and/or more restrictive requirements.

- There is no second language proficiency requirement for students seeking second additional baccalaureate degrees.)

Regulations

These provisions apply to baccalaureate degrees:

Hours earned as credit by examination are counted as hours toward graduation but are not counted as hours in residence. See “Credit by Examination.”

~~Two courses, up to eight hours, may count toward both major(s) and minor(s) requirements.~~

~~A student in the process of completing more than one major or minor may have one calendar year following graduation with one major to complete the additional declared major(s)/minor(s) if:~~

~~The student has a valid degree plan on file which specifies requirements for more than one major or minor.~~

~~The student completes an application for graduation which indicates that a total of eight or fewer hours remain to complete the additional major(s)/minor(s)~~

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.

A student enrolled at UALR who intends to enroll concurrently or as a transient student at another accredited institution should obtain advance approval and then complete a Special Exception Form to assure that courses taken at other institutions will be applied toward UALR graduation requirements.

A senior may participate in commencement exercises prior to the completion of all degree requirements if the student has:

A cumulative 2.0 grade point on all work attempted at UALR

A cumulative 2.0 grade point in the academic major and in the academic minor

No more than nine hours remaining to complete degree requirements.

Submitted a graduation application following prescribed procedures. See “Graduation Procedure” in the UALR Undergraduate Catalog.

(Academic majors and colleges may specify more restrictive requirements which supersede these regulations and are detailed in the academic section of the catalog.)

Implementation Language (not part of the Policy)

Motion FS_2014_30 (10/24/2014): The Baccalaureate Degree Requirements legislation regarding the major requirements in oral and written communication; research, ethics, and critical thinking; and technology originally approved in March 2013 and then amended on September 19, 2014 as Motion FS_2014_19, shall be implemented by Fall 2016.

Motion FS_2013_14 (http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/FS_2013_14-Implementation-of-GenEd-Requirements.pdf) delayed the implementation date for degree requirements in 3/15/2013 and subsequent motions.