

UNIVERSITY SENATE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Policy Revisions for Undergraduate Degree Requirements

Introduced by: Undergraduate Academic Council

Date: April 26, 1996

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. It is proposed that the attached Bill be approved and,
2. The Bill to become effective in the Fall of 1996.
3. The Bill be forwarded to the President for approval and implementation.



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

TO: Judy Genshaft
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Karen R. Hitchcock *KRH*
President

DATE: June 12, 1996

I have approved the following Senate Bills and am forwarding them to you for implementation or other action as appropriate.

Senate Bill No. 9596-07: Policy Revisions for Undergraduate Degree Requirements

Senate Bill No. 9596-08: Revisions in the Undergraduate Public Policy Program

Senate Bill No. 9596-09: Minor in Urban Education

Senate Bill No. 9596-10: Graduate Certificate in Urban Education

Senate Bill No. 9596-11: De-registration of Inactive Master's Programs

Recommendation for Policy Revision:

“APPROPRIATE UNDERGRADUATE BULLETIN FOR DEGREE REQUIREMENTS”

It is recommended that the 1984 Policy regarding a student's "Bulletin Year" be changed to the following:

A student's degree requirements shall be those in effect at the time of the student's matriculation as an undergraduate. Undergraduates who interrupt enrollment for three or more consecutive semesters shall follow the requirements for the Bulletin year specified by the Office of Withdrawal & Reentry at the time of readmission.

Background:

Current policy (copy attached) bases a student's requirements on date of graduation rather than date of matriculation. It also necessitates different implementation for groups of students based on Admission category. It also allows a student to follow different Bulletin years, one for General degree requirements, another for their major and yet another for the minor. In addition to the confusions resulting from using multiple Bulletins, requirements can change for students who take an extra semester to graduate or who attend on a part-time basis. A number of students and their advisors have been "surprised" when a delay in graduation has resulted in new degree requirements to be met.

Current practice results in a mixture of "effective dates" for curricular revisions. Some of our requirements state "effective for students matriculating as of Fall 199_", others state "effective for students graduating in May, 199_ or thereafter". This makes it more difficult for students and advisors to determine what policy applies to which students.

We recommend graduation requirements be based on those in effect when the student officially enters the University. This is a more straight forward and common practice. Provision is made to make adjustment for students who do not maintain continuous enrollment. In those few circumstances where a program or major changes to the extent that an earlier requirement cannot be fulfilled, individual substitutions or waivers can be implemented by the appropriate unit.

APPROPRIATE UNDERGRADUATE BULLETIN FOR DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

General, major, and minor requirements for the baccalaureate degree become effective as of specified student graduation dates. Since requirements are phased in normally during a four-year period, they are stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin published four years prior to the graduation date (e.g., the requirements for May, August or December 1988 graduation would be found in the 1984-85 bulletin). Students follow the requirements of the bulletin associated with their anticipated graduation date. For students admitted as freshmen, the anticipated graduation date is four years later. For students admitted as transfers and for readmitted students, the anticipated graduation date is based upon the remaining credits needed for the degree. Since EOP has been defined as a five-year program, these students may utilize the requirements of a bulletin for a five-year rather than a four-year period. Students do not have an option of selecting general degree requirements to be fulfilled. The general degree requirements associated with a graduation date must be satisfied by those students graduating at that time. Students may, however, elect to follow major and/or minor requirements specified for any graduation date subsequent to their actual graduation date.

Example: A freshman matriculating in Fall 1984 is expected to graduate in 1988 and would follow the requirements in the 1984-85 bulletin. If the student graduates in 1988, the general degree requirements stated in the 1984-85 bulletin must be followed. For major and/or minor requirements, the student may follow the requirements stated in the 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87, or 1987-88 bulletin.

If this student graduates early in 1987, the general degree requirements in the 1983-84 bulletin must be satisfied. Major and/or minor requirements may be satisfied from the 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, or 1986-87 bulletin.

If this student graduates later in 1989, the general degree requirements in the 1985-86 bulletin must be satisfied. Major and/or minor requirements may be satisfied from the 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, or 1988-89 bulletin.

If this freshman is an EOP student and graduates in 1988, expectations are identical to any other freshman student. However, if this student does not graduate until 1989, he/she can still satisfy the general degree requirements stated in the 1984-85 bulletin if he/she so chooses. Likewise, the option of completing the major/and or minor requirements stated in the 1984-85 bulletin are also available.

(UAC, 4/30/84;
US Info, 5/7/84)