

5  
6  
7 **A BILL TO REVISE UW REGULATION 6-404,**  
8 **“University Undergraduate Degree Requirements”**  
9 (See 4.a. for proposed revisions.)

---

10  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the Academic Planning Committee and the Student Interaction  
13 Committee were tasked with exploring whether the number of required upper division  
14 hours should be reduced; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, when reviewing the change to 48 hours which occurred in 1996, no  
17 defensible rationale could be found (any number is arguably arbitrary); and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, changing required upper division hours from 48 to 42 will not impact  
20 the academic units’ ability to determine programmatic requirements; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, it is a challenge for distance majors to find upper division hours online  
23 or through other means; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, UW is one of the few universities in the region to require 48 hours, the  
26 majority of others requiring 42 or fewer; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, 42 hours would preserve rigor while at the same time allow students to  
29 complete program requirements earlier; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, reducing hours can increase the flexibility of the degree earning  
32 process; therefore,

33  
34 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming to amend  
35 UW Regulation 6-404 as presented in the attached addenda.

36  
37 **UW REGULATION 6-404**  
38 **University Undergraduate Degree Requirements**

39  
40 **1. PURPOSE**

41  
42 To codify all existing academic requirements established by the University Faculty for the award  
43 by the University of undergraduate degrees, and otherwise provide direction for the continuing  
44 implementation of such requirements.

45  
46 **2. GENERAL STANDARDS**

47  
48 a. Undergraduate degrees will be conferred only upon persons who have been accepted into a  
49 degree program offered by a college of the University, and who demonstrate successful  
50 completion of all university and college requirements established by appropriate regulations or  
51 publication in the University Bulletin. Individual students are responsible for ascertaining  
52 specific requirements for the degree sought, as well as compliance with published procedures.

53  
54 (1) To be considered a degree candidate at the University of Wyoming, a person must  
55 have made application for admission to the Division of Admissions, must have been  
56 admitted as a student, and must have been accepted into a degree program within a  
57 college of the University.

58  
59 (2) It is desirable that a person intending to pursue a degree at an off-campus location  
60 give notice of such intent preferably at the time of applying for admission to the  
61 University or as soon thereafter as possible.

62  
63 (3) A student admitted to degree candidacy normally must meet all requirements  
64 appropriate to the degree as set forth in the regulations existing at the time of the student's  
65 entry into candidacy for the degree. Students failing to complete degree requirements  
66 within a reasonable period of time forfeit any right to graduate under the requirements in  
67 effect at the time of their admission to degree candidacy.

68  
69 b. Satisfaction of academic requirements must be demonstrated by appropriate entries upon the  
70 official transcript of a student's academic work maintained by the Registrar of the University  
71 (see UW Regulation 8-246).

72  
73 c. Academic requirements established by Colleges shall be based upon the number of credit  
74 hours to be earned for award of a degree within the major sought by a student. Colleges may  
75 establish requirements for areas of study and specific courses as a part of offered degree  
76 programs. Requirements may include academic work for which credit is not awarded.

77  
78 d. Evaluation of successful completion of academic requirements shall be based upon the  
79 assignment of grades by faculty responsible for the academic offering or work. Grades assigned  
80 to students shall represent the individual faculty member's evaluation of the student's work as  
81 described in UW Regulation 6-722 (2.a.). A grade of "F" signifies no credit is earned for the

82 completed academic work. Within limitations set forth in UW Regulation 6-710, grades of "S"  
83 (Satisfactory) or "U" (Unsatisfactory) may be assigned. (For matters related to assignment of  
84 grades, see: UW Regulation 6-710, Authorization for Use of "S-U" Grades; UW Regulation 6-  
85 716, Change of Recorded Grades; and UW Regulation 6-720, Assignment and Removal of the  
86 Grade of I (incomplete).)

87  
88 e. Credit applicable towards a degree may be earned or awarded through (1) instructed classes on  
89 campus, VIRTUALLY or at extension settings (including recognized academic courses under  
90 concurrent faculty general supervision such as internships, clerkships, clinical experience, co-op  
91 programs, etc.); (2) credit by examination; (3) portfolio evaluations, as provided in UW  
92 Regulation 6-719; and (4) acceptance of transfer credit from accredited colleges or universities,  
93 including Wyoming Community Colleges. The following limitations apply:

94  
95 (1) Credit by Examination and Portfolio Evaluations: Such credit may be awarded  
96 students in accordance with the provisions of UW Regulation 6-719 (Assessment of Prior  
97 and Sponsored-Experiential Learning). All credit assigned for experiential learning based  
98 upon portfolio evaluations is excluded from the minimum credit hour requirements set  
99 forth in section 4.

100  
101 (2) Transfer Credit:

102  
103 (a) Transfer credit accepted by the Office of Admissions and recorded on a  
104 student's official transcript remains subject to approval by the college from which  
105 a degree is sought as to whether it satisfies degree requirements.

106 (b) Students classified as juniors or seniors must obtain approval of the Dean of  
107 the College to take lower division level courses at a two-year college which they  
108 desire to apply towards their degree program.

109  
110 f. Other requirements appropriate to the various undergraduate degrees shall be established by  
111 regulations of the colleges. All requirements and appropriate implementing procedures shall be  
112 published in the University Bulletin as directed by the Provost and Vice President for Academic  
113 Affairs.

### 114 **3. CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

115  
116 a. A student must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.000 or better based upon credit  
117 hours attempted through the University of Wyoming.

118  
119 b. Calculation of the cumulative grade point average shall be in accordance with UW Regulation  
120 6-715 (Scholastic Probation, Suspension, Reinstatement and Academic Renewal for  
121 Undergraduate Students).

122 **4. MINIMUM CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS**

123

124 a. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be earned from the University of Wyoming. Beginning  
125 with the fall semester of the 2015-16 academic year, all students first enrolling in the University  
126 or other collegiate institutions must complete a minimum of 48 ~~48~~ **42** upper division (junior-senior)  
127 semester credit hours, **AFFORDING INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS THE ABILITY TO**  
128 **DETERMINE THEIR OWN REQUIREMENTS AND/OR SATISFY ACCREDITATION**  
129 **REQUIREMENTS**, 30 of which must be earned from the University of Wyoming (see UW  
130 Regulation 6-721 regarding upper division courses). Any exceptions may be granted by the  
131 President or Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

132

133 b. Students seeking another baccalaureate degree must complete 30 additional semester hours of  
134 course work from the University of Wyoming, 12 of which must be in upper division (junior-  
135 senior) courses. All college and major requirements of the additional degree must be met.

136

137 c. Undergraduate students may have hours earned in graduate level classes count toward their  
138 undergraduate degree upper division credit requirement.

139

140 **5. STATE AND FEDERAL CONSTITUTION INSTRUCTION AND EXAMINATION**  
141 **REQUIREMENT**

142

143 a. Wyoming State statute (Wyo. Stat. 1977, § 21-9-102) requires each student to receive  
144 instruction in the essentials of the United States and Wyoming constitutions.

145 b. This requirement is satisfied by completion of Political Science 1000, a combination of  
146 History 1210 and History 1250, or other courses approved by the University Studies Committee  
147 as meeting statutory requirements. A grade of "C" or better must be earned in the course  
148 examination.

149 **6. UNIVERSITY STUDIES DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:**

150

151 a. Specific courses which satisfy general education requirements are identified and approved by  
152 the college course and curriculum committees and the University Studies Committee. Only those  
153 courses meeting baseline learning outcomes (see UW Regulation 6-407) shall satisfy these  
154 requirements.

155

156 b. It is the responsibility of the individual colleges to review and adjust their degree requirements  
157 or course offerings when necessary to assure completion of general studies requirements.

158

159 **7. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES REQUIREMENTS:**

160

161 Implementation of the requirements shall be in accordance with the following:

- 162 a. Transferred credits from other collegiate institutions may be accepted in satisfaction of  
163 requirements when the transferred courses meet the objectives of a required University Studies  
164 course as determined by standards or procedures adopted by the University Studies Committee.  
165
- 166 b. Students transferring fewer than thirty (30) credit hours will be subject to requirements  
167 specified for freshman except when waived by the University Studies Committee upon petition  
168 by a student who has completed one year of full time collegiate studies.  
169
- 170 c. The University Studies Committee is authorized to consider and grant waivers of the  
171 University Studies requirements to petitioning students as warranted by unusual and extenuating  
172 circumstances.  
173
- 174 d. With the concurrence of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Provost and  
175 Vice President for Academic Affairs, the University Studies Committee may suspend, or delay,  
176 the application of any of the requirements of the University Studies Program whenever it appears  
177 the availability of required courses, or class sections thereof, is insufficient to accommodate the  
178 class schedules of students necessary for fulfillment of undergraduate degree programs. Any  
179 such action shall be promptly reported to the Faculty Senate with an explanation of the action  
180 and such recommendations as may be appropriate.  
181
- 182 e. The University Studies Committee shall cause to be prepared a list of all courses approved as  
183 meeting requirements in each of the areas of general studies for submittal to the Provost and Vice  
184 President for Academic Affairs. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall  
185 cause such course listing, as may be amended from time to time, to be prepared and distributed  
186 in accordance with applicable policies and shall ensure that administrative procedures are in  
187 place.

## 188 **8. APPLICATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE**

189

190 As soon as a student admitted to degree candidacy has acquired at least 75 hours of credit  
191 applicable to the University-degree objective (but preferably no later than one calendar year prior  
192 to the date of intended graduation), the prospective undergraduate degree candidate shall acquire  
193 an Application for Graduation from the Registrar's Office. The Application shall be completed  
194 and signed by the faculty adviser, the Dean of the College which recommends candidates for the  
195 degree, and the degree candidate. The completed application shall be returned, within 10 days  
196 following its issuance for on-campus students and within 30 days following its issuance for off-  
197 campus students, for filing and processing in Registration and Records.  
198

## 199 **9. CLEARANCE OF DEBTS OWED THE UNIVERSITY**

200

201 Degrees, or other evidence of completion of academic credits, will not be provided students who  
202 have failed to pay requisite fees or other financial obligations owed to any division or unit of the  
203 University. The Vice President for Administration may approve alternative means by which  
204 payment of monies owed the University may be guaranteed for payment and permit students to  
205 receive degrees and transcripts of academic work.

206 **10. DIRECTIVE**

207

208 The requirements herein described are immediately effective except as specifically noted.

Source:

University Regulation 404, Revision 5; adopted 7/17/08 Board of Trustees meeting

Revisions adopted 11/16/12 Board of Trustees meeting

Revisions adopted 9/12/14 Board of Trustees meeting