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

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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

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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

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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,

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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**

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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:**

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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**

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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**

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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