

UW REGULATION 6-721

Policy for Curriculum Structure and Course Identification

1. PURPOSE.

To establish the structure for the course numbering system.

2. POLICY.

University courses shall be divided into the following categories.

- a. Certain remedial courses giving no credit toward graduation shall be designated by numbers in the OXXX series. Remedial courses offer instruction which is normally available in secondary schools or community colleges, but which must be offered on campus to effect the mandate of the University.
- b. Lower division courses are those designed primarily for freshmen and sophomores and designated by numbers in the 1000-1499 series and 2000-2499 series. A lower division course surveys the discipline to introduce broad basic concepts, skills, and techniques. In addition, 2000-level classes will normally have either a 1000-level collegiate class(es) as a prerequisite(s) or require prerequisite knowledge that would be equivalent to that learned in a 1000-level class (e.g., as determined by a placement exam).
- c. Upper division courses are those designed primarily for juniors and seniors and designated by numbers in the 3XXX series and 4XXX series. Upper division courses are characterized by the following criteria.

1. An upper division course must:

- a. build upon concepts, techniques and skills learned in lower division courses by presenting advanced concepts, requiring well developed analytical skills, or encouraging the abilities to synthesize and create; or
- b. present a broad introduction or survey of an area for the non-specialist.
- c. In addition to a. and b. require significant prerequisites such as:
 - i. substantial general introduction in the discipline or related areas, as evidenced by specific collegiate courses as prerequisites; or
 - ii. a general educational background at the collegiate level, as evidenced by multiple prerequisites; or

iii. acceptance into or advanced standing in a recognized professional program.

2. Since 4000-level classes can be utilized as graduate credit, these courses should generally be restricted to either seniors or graduate students. 4000-level classes should contain specific content at a level to prepare students for either graduate study or entering the work force. For example, course content at the 4000-level should normally have a relatively deep and narrow focus.

- a. Courses designed primarily for graduate students shall be designated by numbers in the 5XXX series. Graduate courses are normally open only to students who have been admitted to graduate study; however, unusually advanced undergraduate students may be permitted to take these courses. 4XXX courses can be dual-listed as 5XXX courses provided additional requirements have been approved by the University Course Review Subcommittee of the Academic Planning Committee.
- b. Courses designed primarily for Law, Pharmacy and WWAMI students shall be designated by numbers in the 6XXX series.
- c. Certain remedial courses giving no credit toward graduation shall be designated by numbers in the OXXX series. Remedial courses offer instruction which is normally available in secondary schools or community colleges, but which must be offered on campus to effect the mandate of the University.

3. DIRECTIVE.

The numbering of new courses shall conform to this policy immediately. Supervision of compliance will be the responsibility of the University Course Review Committee.

Source:

University Regulation 721, Revision 1; adopted 7/17/08 Board of Trustees meeting