



OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

GENERAL EDUCATION POLICY

I. BASIC TENET

- General Education is an integral segment of an individual's degree program. The major and general education components constitute a single, whole curriculum of study for any major.

II. GENERAL EDUCATION AND THE MAJOR

- When a student changes their major, they must complete the course requirements for the General Education Program of the new major.
 - If a student has completed the course requirements for the General Education Program for their previous major at the time they commenced taking courses toward a new major, they may graduate under the previous general education program. This adjustment is made through the completion and filing of a **DARS Change Form**.
 - If a student is within 3 courses of completing the course requirements for the previous general education program, they may **petition** to graduate with the previous general education program. The petition must include a detailed comparison of the previous and new general education requirements and a projection of required courses for their remaining semesters of enrollment in order to demonstrate that changing General Education requirements would cause a significant delay in graduation.
- Students with double majors and joint majors must seek General Education advice from their DARS report and an advising unit from one of their majors to determine their course requirements for the General Education Program.
 - If one of the student's majors does not require the language requirement, then the student will not be required to complete this requirement.

III. REENTERING STUDENTS

- Beginning with the Fall 2003 semester, reentering students, including former MFC students, will adhere to the General Education Program that is active at the time of their re-entry.
 - If a reentering student originally entered UB as a freshman during their previous enrollment, he or she will be required to complete the course requirements for the UB General Education Program for new freshmen. (This is regardless of whether these students have taken coursework in the interim at another college.)
 - If a reentering student originally entered UB with 24 or more credit hours from another accredited institution (during previous enrollment), he or she will be required to complete the course requirements for the UB General Education Program for new students, and will be waived of the American Pluralism, Arts, and World Civilizations requirements. (This is regardless of whether these students have taken coursework in the interim at another college.)
 - Reentering students may be allowed to waive general education requirements or graduate under their initially entered General Education Program under a few conditions:

- Conditions for approval which can be handled by filing a **DARS Change Form** are:
 1. If a student returns with a bachelor's degree from an accredited US college, he or she is exempted from completing additional General Education course requirements.
 2. A transcript from another accredited college will be evaluated to determine whether UB's General Education requirements have been met. If the UB General Education requirements have been met, the student will be exempt from completing additional General Education courses in that category.

A transcript from a SUNY campus which includes a General Education Transcript Addendum (GETA) that records completion of some or all SUNY General Education requirements will waive additional course requirements at UB for completed general education requirements.. Please note that requirements for a major may require additional coursework
 3. If a student's course requirements for the UB General Education Program have already been completed and the student has been gone from UB for 5 or less years, he or she may graduate with their original general education requirements.
- Conditions for consideration with a **full petition** are:
 1. If a student is gone for 5 years or less and they are within 3 courses of completion of their previous general education course requirements, he or she may petition to graduate with the previous general education program. The petition must include a detailed comparison of the previous and new general education course requirements and a projection of required courses for their remaining semesters of enrollment in order to demonstrate that changing General Education requirements would cause a significant delay in graduation.
 2. If a student has been gone for more than 5 years and has completed the general education requirements that were in place during their previous enrollment they may petition for a waiver of additional general education courses if the new requirements will significantly delay graduation.