

Graduation Requirements

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for any degree, a student must have completed the requirements as approved by the University Senate, except that curriculum substitutions may be made by the college affected if not inconsistent with these rules. Curriculum requirements must include, in addition to specified credits, a specified grade-point average both overall and in the student's major which may in no case be less than 2.0. Every baccalaureate degree program must include four divisions or components: (1) University Studies, (2) premajor or preprofessional, (3) general college requirements (if any), (4) major or professional, and (5) free electives.

To be eligible for an undergraduate degree, a student must file an application with the dean of the college from which the undergraduate degree is to be awarded: by November 30 for degrees to be awarded the following May, by February 28 for degrees to be awarded the following August, and by June 30 for degrees to be awarded the following December.

Inference Requirement

Each baccalaureate student must satisfy one of the following:

1. Any calculus course, or
2. STA 200 Statistics: A Force In Human Judgment, **PLUS** PHI 120 Introductory Logic, **OR** PHI 320 Symbolic Logic, or
3. the equivalent of one of the above.

University Writing Requirement

The University requires demonstrated competency in writing. The University Writing Requirement is a two-tiered requirement consisting of (1) the First Year Writing Requirement and (2) the Graduation Writing Requirement.

To complete the **First Year Writing Requirement**, students must complete either:

1. **ENG 104 Writing: An Accelerated Foundational Course.**
Full-time students must enroll in ENG 104 in either the fall or spring semester of their first year. They may drop the course during the first year, but beginning in their third semester, students enrolled in ENG 104 are not allowed to drop the course, and will be required to register for the course each semester until they have completed the First Year Writing Requirement.
2. Score **32** or above on the English component of the ACT; score **700** or above on SAT I Verbal; or score **4** or **5** on the Advance Placement (AP) English Language Exam.

Students who have earned credit for ENG 101 or equivalent, and students with a score of **3** on the AP English Language Exam may select either ENG 102 or ENG 104 (recommended) to complete the First Year Writing Requirement.



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The Graduation Writing Requirement establishes the minimum criteria for University of Kentucky undergraduate degrees. Individual majors may have additional writing requirements.

To complete the **Graduation Writing Requirement**, students must:

- Complete the First Year Writing Requirement;
- Attain sophomore status (30+ hours); and
- Complete an approved course or series of courses in the major, **or** complete one writing-intensive course from among the following:

ENG 203 Business Writing
ENG 230 Introduction to Literature
ENG 231 Literature and Genre
ENG 232 Literature and Place
ENG 233 Literature and Identities
ENG 234 Introduction to Women's Literature
ENG 261 Survey of Western Literature from the Greeks
Through the Renaissance
ENG 262 Survey of Western Literature from 1660 to the
Present
ENG 264 Major Black Writers
ENG 270 The Old Testament as Literature
ENG 271 The New Testament as Literature
ENG 281 Introduction to Film

Any other course on the Semester List of Approved Writing-Intensive Courses, published in the *Schedule of Classes*.

Students in some programs complete the Graduation Writing Requirement with courses required in the major. Also, some courses are approved to fulfill this requirement on a semester-by-semester basis. Consult with your advisor about courses that may be used to fulfill the Graduation Writing Requirement. Also, the Writing Initiative Office maintains a list of alternate courses that satisfy the Graduation Writing Requirement. Call (859) 257-4831; or visit the Writing Initiative Web site at: www.uky.edu/UGS/WritingInitiative/ for the most recent list of approved courses.

NOTE: Honors Program students satisfy both the First Year Writing Requirement and the Graduation Writing Requirement through that curriculum.

Change in Program Requirements

When requirements for an undergraduate degree program are changed after a student has enrolled in it, the student has the option of fulfilling either the old or the new requirements.

In fulfilling the old requirements, if a student finds that necessary courses have been eliminated or substantially revised, he or she may substitute other courses with the approval of the dean of the college. In this eventuality, however, the student shall not be forced to comply with the new requirements.

However, if a student interrupts work in the program or the University for more than two semesters, then the dean of the college shall determine which requirements the student shall fulfill.

If the curriculum revision is required by an external accreditation or certification body, and this body submits a written statement to the University that the accreditation of a program or certification of its graduates is in jeopardy unless students fulfill the new requirements, the option of fulfilling the old requirements shall not apply.

When The Graduate School or degree program requirements are changed after a student has begun a course of study, the student shall have the option of fulfilling either the old or new requirements.

If the student elects to fulfill the old requirements but finds that necessary resources (e.g., courses, instruction in particular skills) are no longer available, the student may make reasonable substitutes with the approval of The Graduate School Dean upon recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies.

In the event that a student interrupts work on a graduate degree (i.e., is not enrolled) for one calendar year or more, The Graduate School Dean shall determine, upon recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies, whether the old requirements or the new requirements shall apply. In the event a student has not completed the requirements for the graduate degree five years after the effective date of a change in degree requirements, the new requirements shall apply unless determined otherwise by The Graduate School Dean.

The colleges offering professional degrees (Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy) reserve the right to change curriculum requirements provided the program change has gone through the University's approval process. Any such change in curriculum, however, shall not result in a longer tenure for students enrolled in the program who are making satisfactory academic progress.

Residence Requirement

Residence – a requirement for a degree which specifies the minimum period during which a student must be registered on the main campus – is intended to provide an adequate contact with the University and its faculty for each student who is awarded a degree.

For an undergraduate degree, regardless of the length of time the student has attended the University, a minimum of 30 of the last 36 credits presented for the degree must be taken from the University. Requests for waiver of this requirement for veterans or other students must be approved by the dean of the student's college.

Courses taken under the Study Abroad and National Exchange Student programs (and for which students pay their tuition to the University of Kentucky) are considered as courses taken at UK for purposes of both the residency requirement and for graduates to be conferred commencement honors at the time of award of their degrees.

Credit by Correspondence and Examination

No more than 30 credit hours of the total required for an undergraduate degree may be gained by correspondence. No more than one-third of the requirements for a major may be gained by correspondence.

No credit will be conferred in The Graduate School or in the professional colleges for courses done by correspondence.

No more than half of the credit toward an undergraduate degree may be earned by any combination of CLEP Examinations, PEP Examinations, PONS courses, Special Departmental Examinations, and Advanced Placement Examinations.

Undergraduate Application for Degrees

To be eligible for an undergraduate degree, a student must file an application with the dean of the college from which the undergraduate degree is to be awarded: by November 30 for degrees to be awarded the following May, by February 28 for degrees to be awarded the following August, and by June 30 for degrees to be awarded the following December.

Commencement Honors

Students who attain a grade-point average of 3.8 or higher for at least three years (90 hours) of work at the University (excepting correspondence study) shall be graduated "Summa Cum Laude."

Students who attain a grade-point average of 3.6 or higher for at least three years (90 hours) of work at the University (excepting correspondence study) shall be graduated "Magna Cum Laude."

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Students who attain a grade-point average of 3.4 or higher for at least three years (90 hours) of work at the University (excepting correspondence study) shall be graduated “Cum Laude.”

Students with a minimum of two (60 hours) but less than three years (90 hours) of work at the University will receive the appropriate commencement honors if they attain a grade-point average of 0.2 greater than those specified for three years of residence work.

The bachelor’s degree with honors in a student’s major or a degree with honors from a professional college will be conferred upon a student whom the faculty of the student’s department, or college, in the case of a professional college, and the dean of the student’s college recommend receive the degree. A student may be required to complete work in addition to that required for the bachelor’s or professional degree to receive a degree with honors.

The degree with honors from a professional college is based solely upon work done in the professional college.

All students in the Honors program of the University who do not have a grade-point standing of 3.5 or better but are in the top 10 percent of their college’s class are eligible to graduate in the Honors program if they satisfy the other requirements and have approval of the Honors Program Director.

Work done in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System shall not be counted as work at the University of Kentucky in calculating the grade-point average for honors.

A Double Major

An undergraduate student earns a double major when he or she completes all university, college, and departmental requirements in one department—the Primary Major—and all departmental requirements in a second department—the Secondary Major. If there is a generic relationship, work in the Primary Major may be applicable to the Secondary Major. The student must indicate the double major to the Registrar and to the student records office in his or her college(s). The student must have an advisor in each major. The student who completes the requirements for a double major receives a degree from the college of his or her Primary Major and has the successful completion of the Secondary Major entered on his or her transcript. A Secondary Major may be completed after the degree for the Primary Major has been awarded. A double major does not result in an additional degree.

Concurrent enrollment for degree purposes in more than one graduate program is permitted only with the approval of the student’s graduate advisor(s), Directors of Graduate Studies in the programs, and the Dean of The Graduate School.

Subsequent to the receipt of a doctoral degree, a student is not eligible to receive a master’s degree based on the work which led to the doctorate.

A Second Bachelor’s Degree

A student is eligible to qualify for a second bachelor’s degree in a different major. The student must complete all university, college, and departmental requirements for both degrees. Courses taken towards fulfilling one degree may also count towards fulfilling parallel requirements in the other, but the total credits in the two degree programs must be at least 144 hours. The student may elect to receive the degrees simultaneously, if college and departmental requirements can be met simultaneously.

A Second Master’s Degree

A student may receive two master’s degrees. However, simultaneous enrollment in two or more programs and the granting of two or more master’s degrees at the same time is not permitted, unless approved by the student’s advisors and the Directors of Graduate Studies in the programs.

The University Scholars Program

The University Scholars program enables gifted and highly motivated students to integrate their undergraduate and graduate or professional courses of study into a single, continuous program leading to both a baccalaureate and master’s degree. The admissions requirements for the University Scholars program and the curricular requirements are outlined in the *Special Academic Programs* section of this Bulletin.

Academic Minors

Many departments have designed academic minors for the convenience of undergraduate students. A minor is a structured group of courses that leads to considerable knowledge and understanding of a subject, although with less depth than a major. Some employers consider minors desirable, and the corresponding major requirements at the University may stipulate a minor. Some students choose to complement their major program with a minor in a related field or even in an entirely different field of interest. The minors that are available are described with the departmental listings and major programs in this Bulletin. Students interested in pursuing an academic minor should contact their college dean’s office and the department responsible for the minor program for guidance and advising. Please note that undergraduate students can only complete a minor *in addition* to and as a *complement* to a major. The University does not award stand-alone minors.