

Issue to be resolved: A statement in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 Bulletins, supported by APEX coding and current advising practices, declares that foreign language is an *expectation for entrance* and a *requirement for graduation at UK*. The Bulletin statement is apparently a continuation of the requirements of the old USP and reflects the “Pre-College Curriculum” established by the Commonwealth. Though appearing in the Bulletin for the last two years, this language is explicitly supported by the Senate Rules only in the now obsolete section devoted to the USP.

The Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education respectfully asks the Senate Council to recognize the language in the Undergraduate Bulletins as official policy until the text of a new foreign language requirement can be formulated and approved through proper channels.

I. Foreign Language as a requirement for graduation

A. Text in Current Bulletin (After Listing of UK Core)

Foreign Language Requirement

Foreign language is no longer explicitly required as part of the new UK General Education, the UK Core. However, foreign language proficiency is still an expectation for students who enter UK, and is still considered to be an important part of the students’ educational background.

Any first-time freshman or transfer student must demonstrate that they have completed two high school credits in a single foreign language, or two semesters at the postsecondary level. A student who has not completed the high school foreign language requirement will be required to take a two-semester sequence in one foreign language at the University of Kentucky prior to graduation.

http://www.uky.edu/sites/www.uky.edu.registrar/files/ukc_2.pdf

The text in the UK Bulletin declares that foreign language, measured by credits completed, is a graduation requirement (to be met by courses at UK for those students who have not completed courses prior to entrance).

B. Foreign Language in APEX

Reflecting the language of the UK Bulletin, foreign language is programmed into APEX as a graduation requirement. Several options to complete the requirement are coded into the system:

1. Two years of the same high school FL
2. Two semester sequence of the same language totaling 6 hours. Transfer work is acceptable. Sign language has been granted approval to count.
3. Disability substitution: Two courses chosen from a list provided by Undergraduate Education.
ANT 160, 221,241,242,322,324, GEO 160,172, 260, HIS 207,229,230,247,248, 295,385, SOC 380
NOTE: This list needs to be reviewed with guidance from Undergraduate Education to bring it in line with the UK Core options.
4. Completion of an AA, AS, or Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution.
5. Full GETA (General Education Transfer Agreement) certification.
6. A TOEFL score officially listed in SAP.

7. 3 hours from an upper level course which are taught in the designated languages. Examples include CHI 301, 302, JPN 301, 302.

C. Applicable Senate Rules (from the presentation of the SREC presented by Davy Jones):

SR 4.2.1.1.C (Pre-College Curriculum): "the University Senate recommends that high school students complete at least two years of a foreign language."

~~SR 5.4.3.3 (University Studies Requirements): "Each undergraduate student must complete ... Foreign Language (2 yrs high school/1 year college)" This SR is no longer valid for students entering Fall 2011.~~

SR 4.1.0 (Application for Admission): "A student who has credit for three units of a foreign language in high school may not receive degree credit for the first year of that language in the University."

With the striking of section 5.4.3 (USP), the Senate Rules recognizes foreign language as a recommended for entrance but not as an exit (graduation) requirement. No language pertaining to the UK Core has been inserted into the Rules to replace the stricken USP. The UK Bulletin and APEX are the only witness to an apparent intention to continue the traditional USP requirement as a "bridge" until a new foreign language proficiency requirement, presented to the Senate at the same time as the UK Core, could be approved.

II. Foreign Language as an Expectation or "Entrance Requirement"

As noted above, the Bulletin text states that foreign language is "an expectation" for entrance. If the Bulletin text is not official policy, then UK only recommends foreign language (SR 4.2.1.1) and, in absence of other policy, we devolve to the minimum requirements for college admission found in the "pre-college curriculum" (overseen by the CPE, established by 13 KAR 2:020: "Guidelines for admission to the state-supported postsecondary education institutions in Kentucky").

A. The relevant portions of the law are as follows (emphasis added):

Section 2. Minimum Qualifications for Institutional Admission as a First-time Student to a State-supported University. (1)(a) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection, an applicant who is a resident of Kentucky and who seeks admission to a Kentucky state-supported university shall have fulfilled the minimum requirements for admission to a baccalaureate degree program if the applicant has met the admission criteria established by the institution and:

1. Graduated from a public high school or a certified non-public high school;
2. Completed the pre-college curriculum; and
3. Taken the ACT Assessment.

(2) A non-resident shall have fulfilled the minimum requirements for admission to a baccalaureate degree program at a university if the applicant has met the admission criteria established by the institution and:

- (a) Completed a college preparatory curriculum comparable to Kentucky's pre-college curriculum; and
- (b) Taken the ACT Assessment or the SAT Assessment.

(7) "Pre-college curriculum" means completion of:

- (a) 1. The Kentucky minimum high school graduation requirements; or
2. Other approved course of study established in 704 KAR 3:305; and
(b) 1. Two (2) units of a single world language; or
2. Demonstration of a world language proficiency.

B. Exceptions to the pre-college curriculum

Under Section 2 (4), the CPE requirement does NOT apply to:

- A student who has already earned a bachelor's degree and is now seeking a second bachelor's degree.

Under Section 2 (6), the CPE requirement does NOT apply to:

- An adult student;
- A student entering baccalaureate degree status with twenty-four (24) or more semester credit hours applicable to a baccalaureate degree with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 on a 4.00 scale;
- Active duty military personnel, their spouses, and their dependents;
- A student enrolled in a community or technical college or a community college type program at a university;
- A nonresident student who has otherwise met the University's own admissions requirements and taken the ACT
- Any international student (even, say, a student from a native English-speaking country)

C. Statement found currently on UK Admissions Office Website:

Incoming freshmen should have the high school preparation necessary for academic success at the college level. To be eligible for consideration at UK under the policy outlined above, an applicant must have successfully completed the following high school courses **as a minimum**:

(the site lists several categories, including:)

Foreign Language – 2 credits

- Two credits in the same foreign language or demonstrated competency
<http://www.uky.edu/Admission/pre-college-curriculum>

Conclusion: The UK Admissions website statement does not mention the exceptions in the CPE minimum standards. It appears to go beyond the statement of SR 4.2.1.1.C (Pre-College Curriculum): "the University Senate recommends that high school students complete at least two years of a foreign language." Unless connected to the Bulletin text, its statement that "an applicant must have completed... as a minimum... two credits in the same foreign language..." is not supported.

Affirmation of the Bulletin statement would support the language found on the Admission's website, as "admission criteria established by the institution" (13 KAR 2:020 2(1)(b)) and thus move UK beyond the minimum "Pre-College" requirements, making clear that the exceptions in that document do not apply.