

The SAASC convened on Thursday, April 25, 2019 to consider a proposal from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment to change the minimum graduation requirements for all B.S. degrees conferred by the college in the College Bulletin.

Attendance: Brad Kerns, Tom Troland, Azhar Swanson, Shawn Caudill, Susan Effgen, Kevin Donohue, Herman Farrell (Chair)

Brad Kerns served as facilitator of this proposal.

Discussion:

The proposed changes in minimum graduation requirements across the college is in alignment with the set of standards, known as “Academic Enrichment Experience” that was adopted by the college in 2012/13. Those standards were adopted by various programs within the college but the entire set of standards that impact the entire college have not been subject to curricular review and approval. Thus, this proposal to revise the College Bulletin.

Vote:

A motion was made and seconded that the SAASC approve the proposal from the College Agriculture, Food and Environment to change the minimum graduation requirements for all B.S. degrees conferred by the college in the College Bulletin.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

February 24, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undergraduate Council, Senate Council, University Senate



FROM: Larry J. Grabau, Associate Dean for Instruction

RE: Request for Update in Bulletin Language for “Minimum Requirements for Degree” for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE).

During the 2012-13 academic year, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) of CAFE agreed upon a set of standards for a new college-wide expectation for an “Academic Enrichment Experience” (AEE). We have chosen not to include that set of standards in order to avoid confusion; the AEE language we wish to have subjected to curricular review is somewhat different than the language from 2012-13. By the end of that academic year, all undergraduate programs in the college had an AEE, and those program-level requirements were codified over the ensuing academic year through program changes. In the subsequent years, some programs have, inevitably, made modifications in their AEEs, and have brought those modifications through the appropriate curricular channels for review and approval.

Unfortunately, the college-level AEE requirement has never been officially brought forward for review, consideration, and (hopefully) endorsement by the University’s curricular review apparatus. That is the primary circumstance that the UCC set out to rectify during its review of the college’s “Minimum Requirements for Degree” over the past several months. The UCC reviewed all items in this list carefully, agreed to minor changes in most, and came to an agreement on updated language (to be considered for the first time at the UGC, SC and US) for item #6 regarding our AEE.

Note that the separate attachment includes both the proposed and the current language for this premise; our sense is that the first five and the seventh items in the proposed language are uncontroversial and are simply language updates that reflect minor clarifications. On the other hand, item #6 gets to the course of our AEE requirement, and, if approved, will allow our college to finally indicate that this AEE expectation is formally expected of all undergraduates in the college as a whole, rather than simply being a program requirement of each individual program.

Of course, it is important to note that the UCC consists of 2/3 of our DUS cohort each year (with a two-years-on, one-year-off rotation). Thus, the voting members of the UCC are program leaders for the undergraduate programs in the college. Further, non-voting DUS’s were invited to attend and participate in these discussions. Minutes of the January 25, 2019 meeting, during which a final discussion and unanimous approval of the proposal was achieved, are attached.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION—January 25, 2019 Approved Version, UCC, CAFE

NOTE: Except where noted in specific degree programs, students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment:

1. Complete UK Core and University graduation requirements;
2. Complete GEN 100: Issues in Agriculture, Food and Environment. Students who transfer into the College and have already completed the UK Core Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA requirement are not required to take GEN 100;
3. Earn a minimum of 120 credit hours with at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and at least a 2.0 grade point average in major specific courses. Note that “major-specific” refers to all pre-major, major, and specialty/professional support courses. Further, note that some programs require more than the minimum 120 credit hours and have higher grade-point average requirements. Remedial courses **cannot** be counted toward the total hours required for the degree;
4. Complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of major required coursework to include a capstone course or other culminating experience;
5. Complete a core of specialty or professional support courses outside their major totaling 18 or more hours at the 200 level or above;
6. Complete a graded, credit-bearing Academic Enrichment Experience (AEE) as specified by the degree program. The AEE may consist of a single course or could involve a series of related courses. Such experiences may include mentored research or teaching, supervised internships, directed service learning, or Education Abroad. Some programs may choose to accept coursework from other programs to satisfy this requirement; and
7. Complete a minimum of 45 graded credit hours from upper division courses (300 level and above). Note that some such courses are only offered for P/F grading; in that case, such courses can be counted toward this requirement at the discretion of the College.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION—ORIGINAL

NOTE: The following graduation requirements do not apply to degree programs in the School of Human Environmental Sciences; those requirements are described in the corresponding section of this Bulletin. Except where noted in specific degree programs, all students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment must complete:

1. the UK Core and University graduation requirements;
2. GEN 100: Issues in Agriculture, Food and Environment is required for all first semester freshmen. Students who transfer into the College and have already completed the UK Core U.S. Citizenship requirement are not required to take GEN 100;

3. a minimum of 120 credit hours with at least a 2.0 grade-point average. Some programs require more than the minimum 120 credit hours and have other grade-point average requirements. Remedial courses may **not** be counted toward the total hours required for the degree;
4. an Agriculture Major with a minimum of 24 hours including 3 hours in a 400-level capstone course;
5. a core of specialty or professional support courses outside the major department totaling at least 18 hours at the 200 level or above; and
6. a minimum of 45 credit hours from upper division courses (300 and above).

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) Meeting Minutes, January 25, 2019.
Recorded by Larry J. Grabau.

Members present: Brown, Dvorak, Dwyer, Geneve, Haleman, Haynes, Hirsch, B. Lee, Morgan, Ragain, Urschel, Vincent; Grabau (non-voting).
Guests present: Dunn, Gladstone, Leed, Lhotka, Wilson.

Our planned agenda items for today included:

- i) Conclusion of college-level curriculum, and
- ii) First-round conversation about ESMA curricular revisions.¹

Parts of the college-level curriculum conversation:

- A. Agriculture individualized (AICU) bulletin language update. We referred to the most recent iteration of proposed AICU language for the University of Kentucky Bulletin compared with the existing language in the 2018-19 UK Bulletin. Suggestions were made to clearly state that the Director of Undergraduate Studies will be a faculty member. The UCC wanted to confirm the current approximate number of “true” individualized (not affiliated with a named AICU program) students; Dunn indicated that there were about 33 such students. WRD 430 is a capstone alternative for such AICU students who are not able to access capstones in other majors (due to prerequisite chains or major restrictions). A motion made by Brown and seconded by Geneve was to approve the AICU language with the replacement of the proposed language of item #5’s language with the following: “The DUS of Individualized Programs will be a faculty member who will provide oversight of the process, review the program periodically, and approve students’ plans of study.” Motion carried by a 10-0 vote.
- B. Discussion of an FASC exception, led by Haleman. Two documents were provided: a written exception request from Haleman and a FASC four-year plan from Grabau. In addition, the course description for FAM 499, the FASC program’s internship (and AEE course) was also supplied. Notably, the description of that course identifies it as a capstone experience. Many questions ensued; a decision was not made vis-à-vis this exception request.
- C. Overall “Minimum Requirements for Graduation.” Dvorak move to approve the proposed set of requirements; Vincent seconded. Dwyer raised an issue about whether or not such items much be circulated to the college faculty as a whole.² Some concern was expressed about process of discussion and approval; to wit, should we be hearing exceptions to “minimum requirements for graduation” that the UCC has not yet already approved? On the other hand, some in the room are reluctant to approve the proposed version of these requirements until they have had an opportunity to voice their concerns. Once voiced, the group may either choose to change the requirements, or grant exceptions, either of which could mitigate the concerns. So, we decided to hear Leed’s presentation on ANSC’s request for exceptions at this point. Briefly, she indicated that ANSC wanted to include two opportunities for students to achieve their AEE through teaching experiences (that is, as ASC 333 in support of ASC 101 or as ASC

¹ Note that we did not have time to start the ESMA discussions. Instead, that program change will be handled as an e-meeting over the coming seven days.

² Grabau has initiated conversations with the College on this issue. Given the eventual high level of comfort with the voting and nonvoting program representatives in the room during this UCC meeting, these changes to the minimum requirements for graduation seem to be non-controversial.

395 through a special ASC 395 teaching contract in support of a variety of other courses).³ She noted that the ANSC program would no longer ask to be able to grant AEE credit to their students for GEN 300 peer mentoring or for participation in judging teams. At this point, Dwyer moved to change the “3” to a “1” in item #6 in this section; Morgan seconded the motion. After brief discussion, the amendment carried by a 9-1 vote. Several additional friendly amendments were added to the initial Dvorak motion; the final motion revised items #6 and #7 as follows:

“6. Complete a graded⁴, credit-bearing Academic Enrichment Experience (AEE) as specified by the degree program. The AEE may consist of a single course or could involve a series of related courses. Such experiences may include mentored research or teaching, supervised internships, directed service learning, or Education Abroad. Some programs may choose to accept coursework from other programs to satisfy this requirement; and

7. Complete a minimum of 45 graded credit hours from upper division courses (300 level and above). Note that some such courses are only offered for P/F grading; in that case, such courses can be counted toward this requirement at the discretion of the College.”

This amended language to the original Dvorak motion passed by an 11-0 vote. Subsequently, Lee moved to approve a capstone exception for FASC (per Haleman’s request); Brown seconded; motion carried by an 11-0 vote.

³ Note that a new course should be established for this shared premise, since the “mentored teaching” is a distinct activity and has been going on for several years. This should not continue to run under ASC 333 indefinitely, and ASC 395 is clearly not the appropriate venue for a teaching experience.

⁴ Note that at least one current AEE course (AEC 399) will require a revision as a result of this UCC decision; to wit, that course will need to be modified to become available for letter grades.