

Proposal to make the Free Elective (Senate Rule 5.4.3) Optional
Kimberly W. Anderson, Associate Dean
College of Engineering
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With the recent mandate by CPE, the College of Engineering is required to modify their curricula so that the maximum number of hours to complete the BS degree is 128. Currently, the number of hours to complete the BS degrees in engineering range from 128 – 135. As we work to meet this mandate, it is imperative that we continue to meet our engineering accreditation requirements through math, science and engineering classes.

To assist with this mandate, we are requesting that the University consider modifying the Senate Rule 5.4.3 to make the Free Elective optional. This would give our programs the choice of including the Free Elective or not in their curricula. In addition, many of our students come in with college or AP credit with the Free Elective already taken while the student is in high school. Therefore, many of our students are not taking this elective at UK. Finally, we believe our engineering students are receiving their broad education through the UK Core.

On January 25, 2017, I discussed this issue at the Associate Deans' meeting and all of the Associate Deans present were in unanimous agreement that the Free Elective should now be optional.

I would like to request that Senate Rule 5.4.3 be changed as follows

5.4.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

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 shall in no case be less than 2.0. [US: 10/10/94]

- * The 2.0 requirement applies to all major requirements, including pre-major and lower division courses but not to those courses taken in the major beyond the minimum requirements. [SREC: 12/4/95]

Every baccalaureate degree program shall include four divisions or components:

1. UK Core
2. Pre-major or Pre-professional
3. Major or Professional
4. ~~Free~~-Electives

AND

5.4.3.4 ~~Free~~-Electives

~~The free elective degree component must meet the definition of free electives as set forth in the Glossary of Terms of the University Senate Rules. An~~ free elective component is a mandatory part of every baccalaureate program and baccalaureate programs may satisfy this requirement with a free elective. ~~The free elective degree component must meet the definition of free electives as set forth in the Glossary of Terms of the University Senate Rules. It has no minimum hour requirement—that is, it is left to the discretion of the Undergraduate Council as it approves programs and program changes.~~