
University Graduation Requirements

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program must fulfill the following university requirements to graduate.

Credit Requirements

A minimum of 120 semester hours is required for graduation with a baccalaureate degree. A minimum of 45 semester hours in upper-division courses is required for graduation. Some programs may require more than 120 semester hours and 45 upper-division semester hours for graduation; refer to specific campus/college graduation requirements.

Not more than 60 semester hours in independent learning courses and/or earned by comprehensive examination (including Advanced Placement, College-Level Examination Program, DANTES Subject Standardized Test, and International Baccalaureate Diploma/Certificate exams) are accepted for credit toward the baccalaureate degree.

Grade Point Requirement

A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 for all courses taken at ASU is required to graduate with a baccalaureate degree.

General Studies Requirement

All students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program must satisfy a university requirement of a minimum of 35 semester hours of approved course work. See “General Studies,” page 93.

Students transferring from Arizona community colleges with a certified completion of the appropriate Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) will have satisfied all lower-division General Studies requirements of the baccalaureate degree with which the AGEC articulates. For more details regarding the different versions of AGEC, refer to az.transfer.org/cas/atass/student/agec.html.

Mathematics Requirement

All undergraduate degree-seeking students are expected to fulfill the university’s mathematics requirement by the time they have accumulated 30 hours of credit in residence at ASU. Any student who has more than 30 hours of credit and has not fulfilled the mathematics requirement must enroll in a mathematics course or an appropriate prerequisite course and continue to do so every semester until the mathematics requirement is met. A waiver may be granted for continuous enrollment if there are scheduling conflicts detrimental to the student’s academic progress.

First-Year Composition Requirement

Completion of both ENG 101 and 102 or ENG 105 with a grade of “C” (2.00) or higher is required for graduation from ASU in any baccalaureate program. International students from non-English-speaking countries may meet the First-Year Composition requirement by completing ENG 107 and 108 with a grade of “C” (2.00) or higher.

New or Transfer Students. Before new students or transfer students can register for the first time at ASU, they must determine what courses to take to complete the university First-Year Composition requirement; the students must then enroll immediately in composition courses and continue to do so every term until composition requirements are met. *Colleges may grant waivers to the immediate and continual enrollment requirement when there are scheduling conflicts detrimental to the student’s academic progress.* Transfer students from public community Arizona colleges or universities can determine the acceptability of their composition courses by referring to the *Course Applicability System* in consultation with an academic advisor. Composition courses transferred from out-of-state institutions must be evaluated and approved by the Composition Office.

The transfer student must file an application in the student’s college for Equivalency of First-Year Composition Requirements, along with a transcript and catalog descriptions of the composition courses to be transferred. The application, available in each college, should be filed immediately upon transfer of course work to ASU so that the student is able to enroll in an additional composition course, if required to do so.

For more information, visit LL 314 on Tempe campus or FAB N220 on West campus.

Resident Credit Requirement

Resident credit refers to a course that is offered in a regular semester, winter session, intersession, or summer session. Credit earned through comprehensive examinations is also included when calculating ASU resident hours. Credit earned through independent learning, advanced placement, the College-Level Examination Program, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma/Certificate are excluded when calculating ASU resident hours.

Campus Resident Credit Requirement. Every candidate for the baccalaureate degree is required to earn a minimum of 30 semester hours in resident credit courses at the ASU campus from which the student will graduate.

Guidelines for Determination of Catalog Year

The *General Catalog* is published annually. Department, school, division, college, and university requirements may change and are upgraded often. In determining graduation requirements, an undergraduate student may use only one edition of the *General Catalog* but may elect to follow any subsequent catalog. Students maintaining continuous enrollment at any public Arizona community college or university may graduate according to the requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment or according to the requirements of any single catalog in effect during subsequent terms of continuous enrollment. Students may maintain continuous enrollment whether attending a single public community college or university in Arizona or transferring among public institutions in Arizona while pursuing

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Continuous Enrollment

Student's Activity	Semester/Year	Status
Example A		
Admitted and earned course credit at an Arizona community college	Fall 2001	Active
Continued at an Arizona community college	Spring 2002	Active
	Fall 2002	
Transferred to an Arizona university	Spring 2003	Student enrolled under 2001–2002 or any subsequent catalog
Example B		
Admitted and earned course credit at an Arizona community college	Fall 1997	Active
Enrolled but earned all “Ws” or “Es” (0.00)	Spring 1998	Inactive
Enrolled in audit courses only	Fall 1998	Inactive
Nonattendance	Spring 1999	Inactive
Transferred to an Arizona university	Fall 1999	Student enrolled under 1999–2000 or any subsequent catalog
Example C		
Admitted and earned course credit at an Arizona community college	Fall 1999	Active
Nonattendance	Spring 2000	Inactive
	Fall 2000	
	Spring 2001	
Readmitted and earned course credit at an Arizona community college	Fall 2001	Active
Transferred to an Arizona university	Spring 2002	Student enrolled under 2001–2002 or any subsequent catalog
Example D		
Admitted and earned course credit at an Arizona community college	Fall 2000	Active
Nonattendance	Spring 2001	Inactive
Readmitted and earned course credit at an Arizona community college	Summer 2001	Active
Nonattendance	Fall 2001	Inactive
	Spring 2002	
Transferred to an Arizona university	Fall 2002	Student enrolled under 2000–2001 or any subsequent catalog
Example E		
Admitted and earned course credit at an Arizona community college	Summer 2004	Active
Continued at an Arizona community college	Fall 2004	Active
	Spring 2005	
Nonattendance	Fall 2005	Inactive
Readmitted and earned course credit at an Arizona community college	Spring 2006	Active
Transferred to an Arizona university	Summer 2006	Student enrolled under 2004–2005 or any subsequent catalog
Example F		
Admitted and earned course credit at an Arizona university	Summer 2004	Active
Nonattendance	Fall 2004	Inactive
Nonattendance	Spring 2004	Inactive
Readmitted and earned course credit at an Arizona university	Fall 2005	Active
Continued at an Arizona community college	Spring 2006	Active
		Student enrolled under 2004–2005 or any subsequent catalog

their degrees. Students transferring among Arizona public higher education institutions must meet the admission, residency, and all curricular and academic requirements of the degree-granting institution.

1. A semester in which a student earns course credit is counted toward *continuous* enrollment. Noncredit courses, audited courses, failed courses, or courses from which the student withdraws do not count toward the determination of *continuous* enrollment for catalog purposes. See examples A and B in the “Continuous Enrollment” table, on this page.

2. Students who do not meet the minimum enrollment standard stipulated in number 1 during three consecutive semesters (fall/spring/fall or spring/fall/spring) and the intervening summer term at any public Arizona community college or university are no longer considered continuously enrolled. (Note that students are not obligated to enroll and earn course credit during summer terms, but summer enrollment may be used to maintain continuous enrollment status.) These students must meet requirements of the public Arizona community college or university

catalog in effect at the time they are readmitted or of any single catalog in effect during subsequent terms of *continuous* enrollment after readmission. See examples C and D in the “Continuous Enrollment” table, page 90.

3. Students admitted or readmitted to a public Arizona community college or university during a summer term must follow the requirements of the catalog in effect the following fall semester or of any single catalog in effect during subsequent terms of *continuous* enrollment. See example E in the “Continuous Enrollment” table, page 90.
4. In areas of study in which the subject matter changes rapidly, material in courses taken long before graduation may become obsolete or irrelevant.
5. Course work that is more than eight years old is applicable to completion of degree requirements at the discretion of the student’s major department. Departments may accept such course work, reject it, or request that the student revalidate its substance. The eight-year limit on course work applies except when program accreditation agencies limit the life of course work to fewer than eight years. Departments may also require students to satisfy current major requirements rather than major requirements in earlier catalogs when completing earlier requirements is no longer possible or educationally sound.
6. Enrollment by Arizona community college students in nontransferable courses still constitutes enrollment for purposes of determining whether the student has been continuously enrolled. For example, if a student takes two semesters of cooperative education classes, which are not transferable to the university but constitute *continuous* enrollment at the community college, the university should consider it *continuous* enrollment.
7. Exceptions made by an institution apply only to the institution that made the exception. For example, if the community college departments accepted credit that was more than eight years old, the university department to which the student transfers has the right and the obligation to reevaluate any credit more than eight years old.

Inquiries about these guidelines may be directed to the student’s academic advisor.

Declaration of Graduation

Students must file a Declaration of Graduation (DOG) using the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS). DARS is an automated process that matches courses a student has completed with the requirements of a particular academic degree program, resulting in a report that shows the student which requirements are satisfied and which remain to be fulfilled, thus providing a guide for efficient selection of courses toward graduation. For example, a student majoring in Biology would request a Degree Audit Report that would show how his or her completed ASU and transfer course work would apply to the Biology degree program.

Each student must submit a DOG form no later than the semester in which he or she earns the 87th semester hour.

The DOG process confirms the degree requirements under which the student is enrolled, as indicated on the degree audit report for that academic program and catalog year. The student should review his or her degree audit with an academic advisor to assure an accurate interpretation. Some departments may require the DOG earlier than the 87th hour. Students failing to submit the DOG are prevented from further registration.

Application for Graduation Requirements

The following steps are required to complete the graduation process:

1. Register for the final semester.
2. Pay the graduation fee at Cashiering Services. Note the deadlines in the “University Calendar,” page 22.
3. Submit the fee receipt to the Graduation Section, SSV 144, and apply for graduation. The Degree Audit Report or Program of Study is reviewed at this time and the graduation date and eligibility to graduate are verified.
4. Complete all course work listed on the Degree Audit Report or Program of Study by the graduation date.

For more information about application for graduation procedures at West campus, visit Registration Services in UCB 120, or call 602/543-8203. For more information about application for graduation procedures at the Polytechnic campus, visit Registration Services in QUAD 2.

Students must comply with the above requirements to graduate.

Petition for Variance from Degree

Any student wishing to have a college or university degree requirement variance must petition the standards committee of the college in which the student is enrolled.

All petitions must originate with the student’s advisor. Refer to the college sections of this catalog for college and division, school, or department requirements.

Tempe Campus Standards Committee. This committee advises the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost regarding undergraduate student petitions that concern university-wide academic requirements. These requirements include but are not limited to requirements on the amount of transfer credit, graduation requirements, limits on credit by examination, and requirements for a second baccalaureate degree (see “Second Baccalaureate Degree,” page 92). To petition for a variance from such university requirements, the normal department, division, school, and college forms and procedures are used. Petitions that have been denied at the college level are forwarded to the Tempe Campus Standards Committee.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The separate units of ASU—such as colleges, schools, and departments—have specific requirements for graduation that must be satisfied for a baccalaureate degree. For those requirements, see the appropriate *General Catalog* section. Students are encouraged to consult with an academic advisor in planning a program to ensure that it meets the various requirements. A well-planned program may enable a student to concurrently satisfy a

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portion of the General Studies requirement together with a portion of a college or major requirement.

OVERVIEW OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

At ASU, students take classes that fulfill four types of requirements. As illustrated in the “Graduation Requirements” diagram, on this page, some courses can fulfill two or more types of requirements, but other courses fulfill only one requirement. The total semester hours needed to graduate are represented by the largest circle. The university minimum is 120 semester hours. Some majors, however, require more than 120 semester hours.

Although the three shaded circles are equal in size and the white circle is larger than all three, the total number of semester hours for each type of requirement may vary.

University Requirements. The light gray circle represents university requirements. The General Studies requirement and the First-Year Composition requirement are among these requirements. For more information, see “General Studies,” page 93.

College Requirements. The medium gray circle represents college requirements. Some colleges and schools have additional requirements, such as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Major. The dark gray circle represents the requirements of the major. The semester hours required for a major may be as low as 30 hours or as high as 63 hours.

Electives/Minor. The white circle represents electives and the requirements of a minor. A minor typically adds an additional 18 to 25 semester hours. Though every student must eventually declare a major, a minor is not required. For more information, see “Minors, Certificates, and Interdisciplinary Studies,” page 126. Some courses, while providing semester hours toward graduation, fall outside the shaded circles and are not required in a program for graduation. These courses are electives. Some majors leave no room for electives within the minimum 120 semester hours required to graduate.

GRADUATION WITH ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

An undergraduate student must have completed at least 56 semester hours of resident credit at ASU to qualify for graduation with academic recognition for a baccalaureate degree. West campus requires a minimum of 50 semester hours of ASU resident credit to qualify for academic recognition.

The cumulative GPA determines the designation, as shown in the “Academic Recognition” table below.

Academic Recognition	
Cumulative GPA	Designation
3.40–3.59	cum laude
3.60–3.79	magna cum laude
3.80–4.00	summa cum laude

The cumulative GPA for these designations is based on only ASU resident course work. For example, ASU independent learning course grades are not calculated in the honors GPA. All designations of graduation with academic recognition are indicated on the diploma and the ASU transcript. Graduation with academic recognition applies only to undergraduate degrees.

A student who has a baccalaureate degree from ASU and is pursuing a second baccalaureate degree at ASU (with a minimum of 30 hours of resident credit) is granted academic recognition on the second degree based on the semester hours earned subsequent to the posting of the first degree. If fewer than 56 semester hours are completed at ASU subsequent to completion of the first ASU degree, the level of academic recognition can be no higher than that obtained on the first degree. If 56 or more semester hours are completed at ASU after completion of the first ASU degree, the level of academic recognition is based on the GPA earned for the second ASU degree. Inquiries about graduation with academic recognition may be directed to the Graduation Section, 480/965-3256.

ADDITIONAL DEGREES

Second Baccalaureate Degree. The student seeking a second baccalaureate degree must meet admission criteria for that degree. After conferral of the first degree, a minimum of 30 semester hours in resident credit must be successfully completed at the ASU campus from which the second baccalaureate degree will be awarded. The student must meet all degree and university requirements of the second degree.

Concurrent Degrees. More than one baccalaureate degree may be pursued concurrently if prior approval is given by the standards committee(s) of the college(s) offering the degrees. Students may receive concurrent degrees if they meet the minimum requirements for both degrees.

Graduate Degrees. For more information, see “Division of Graduate Studies,” page 150, and “College of Law,” page 496.

