

Title: Undergraduate Degree Programs

Category: Academic Affairs

Responsible Cabinet Member: Provost

Purpose

This policy establishes the framework for the development, approval and administration of undergraduate degree programs at the University. It defines the academic standards, graduation requirements and governance responsibilities necessary to maintain the quality, consistency and integrity of undergraduate education. The policy aligns with the University's mission to provide rigorous, student-centered academic experiences that promote intellectual growth, civic engagement and workforce readiness. Oversight and implementation of this policy rest with the Office of the Provost and the academic colleges through their respective program faculty and deans.

Policy Statement: The University confers undergraduate degrees upon students who have satisfactorily completed all program, college and University requirements as recommended by the program faculty and the dean of the college. This policy outlines the standards governing curriculum structure, graduation requirements and academic accountability to ensure institutional coherence and compliance with state and accreditation expectations.

Undergraduate Degrees

To be eligible for any degree, a student must have completed the degree program requirements as recommended by the Program Faculty and College Deans' Offices.

The dean of a college is charged with overseeing the educational work of the college and its efficient conduct and management in all matters not specifically charged elsewhere. The dean is responsible for the implementation of the curricula of a college and ensuring, through the faculty, the quality of instruction.

Bachelor's degrees offered fully online are not open to first time in college (FTIC) students but may be offered for transfer students.

Pursuant to KRS 164.240, the faculty of each of the colleges will recommend students for degrees to the Office of the Provost. Degrees will be conferred by the Board of Trustees and signed by the President.

- **Graduation Requirements:** Students must fulfill program, college and University requirements to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky. The student must:
 - Meet all residency requirements (see Residency Requirements Policy).
 - Complete all program requirements, including any pre-major and major requirements.
 - Earn at least 120 credit hours.
 - Achieve an overall and major specified grade point average (GPA) not less than 2.0. The GPA requirement applies to all major requirements, including pre-major (if applicable) and lower division courses, but not to courses taken in the major beyond the minimum requirements.
 - Complete University requirements, including general education requirements.
 - Complete college requirements (if applicable).
 - Complete the Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR).
 - Fulfill the World Language requirement (13 KAR 2:020); any FTIC or transfer student must either (a) demonstrate that they have passed two (2) high school credits or two (2) semesters at the postsecondary level, or (b) pass a two (2)-semester sequence in one (1) foreign language at the University prior to graduation.

- **General Education Requirements:** Each undergraduate student must complete all parts of the general education requirements. A single general education course can only be used to satisfy one area of the general education requirements. Please see General Education Program Policy for additional information.
- **Pre-Major and Major Requirements**
 - Pre-major (if applicable) and major requirements are determined by the Program Faculty and submitted through the curricular approval process established by the University. (See Curricular Review Policy.)
- **Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR)**
 - Before graduating, students must successfully complete the GCCR. To satisfy the GCCR, a student must earn a passing grade in any course, or series of courses, designated in the degree program curriculum as fulfilling the GCCR.
 - The GCCR has three (3) components:
 - Written assignment.
 - Oral or visual assignment.
 - Demonstration of disciplinary information literacy.
 - At least one (1) assignment used to satisfy a GCCR component must include a draft/feedback/revision process.
 - Program Faculty are responsible for identifying program-level student learning outcome(s) that align with the GCCR.
- **Electives:** In addition to required coursework, every baccalaureate program includes free or guided electives.
 - Guided electives apply to all students in the program and are organized as groups of specific courses, from which a student chooses one (or two, or three, etc.) from each grouping.
 - Free electives apply to all students in the program and may be restricted by a prefix and/or a number series. The choice of exactly which course(s) to take is left up to the student, but the student must choose within the parameters spelled out in the program's free electives requirement.
- **College Requirements (if applicable):** Individual colleges may establish additional requirements beyond the University's General Education, electives and GCCR requirements for the completion of a bachelor's degree.

References and Related Information:

KRS 164.240

13 KAR 2:020

Approved: