

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C**

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Stephanie Gene Hands **Email:*** ssmith@unm.edu **Date:*** 10-24-11
Phone Number:* 505 277-4621 Initiator's Rank / Title* Mgr.,Academic Advisement: Arts Sciences
Faculty Contact* Mark Ondrias Advisement
Department* A&S Dean's Office Administrative Contact* Stephanie Hands
Division College of Arts and Sciences **Program** College of Arts and Sciences
Branch Albuquerque

Proposed effective term:

Semester Fall ▼ Year 2012 ▼

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program Undergraduate Degree Program ▼ CIP Code
Name of New or Existing Program * A & S Admission and Graduation Requirements
Catalog Page Number Select Category Degree ▼ Degree Type BA/BS in AS
Select Action Revision ▼

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

Please see attached word document. This will replace current Admission and Graduation Requirement information under the A&S Deans Office information.

[FormCA&S admission and gradrecs01-30-12.doc](#)

This Change affects other departmental program/branch campuses

Reason(s) for Request * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

Please see attached.

[V3Realigning Arts and Sciences.doc](#)

Statements to address budgetary and Faculty Load Implications and Long-range planning * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

The proposed changes to the entry requirements should have no impact on the core curriculum teaching load and therefore no budgetary impact. Changes to Graduation requirements should result with students graduating with fewer overall but more upper division credit hours. The anticipated increased enrollments in upper division courses would result in greater instructional efficiencies.

Realigning Arts and Sciences Admission and Graduation Protocols to Facilitate Student Success

For the past decade or longer, the University has suffered from a persistent six year graduation rate that is far from optimal (below 45%). Student academic progress through the College of Arts and Sciences is a major contributor to the overall UNM graduation rate. This statistic becomes increasingly important as the state of New Mexico transitions to a new funding formula based on course completion and graduation rates instead of total student credit hours.

Current Situation

The College of Arts & Sciences currently has minimal entrance requirements (26 total hours, completion of English 102, a 2.0 GPA and departmental approval which is, in many cases, largely pro forma). These requirements do not ensure any measure of academic maturity in our entering students. Since students are compelled to leave University College at 64 hours, this makes the College the default home of many students who do not meet the more stringent admission requirements of other degree-granting colleges. While students entering A & S are required to declare a major, this step is often merely a temporary placement to allow them to complete requirements for their college of choice. As a result, the College contains a large number of “declared majors” who are:

- Unqualified for admission into other colleges
- Underprepared for upper division courses in a major/minor program
- Not actively engaged in their declared major/minor
- Still taking large numbers of 100/200 level courses in order to satisfy our College Group Requirements

Consequences and Results

While it is not possible to calculate a “College” six year graduation rate, the above circumstances produce some very sobering results concerning graduation progress in Arts and Sciences.

- Of the 6250 registered majors in A & S last spring semester, 4400 (61%) were “seniors” (with more than 92 credit hours completed) and only 860 graduated.
- Spring 2011 graduates averaged 149 credit hours completed; only 128 are required by the University.
- Only 38% of the A & S majors with more than 128 hours graduated.

According to the College Advisement Office, the major reasons why students are delayed from graduating in their intended semester are:

- Incomplete major/minor requirements
- Insufficient upper division credits (even though, at 42, our requirement is among the lowest of any degree granting college)

- Not meeting College group requirements

Other requirements, most notably the University 128 credit requirement, are not a significant deterrent to graduation.

These numbers reveal a systematic problem in student progress through our curriculum. Our majors are easily accumulating hours but not making it to graduation. Many factors conspire to produce these results:

- We accept too many underprepared students into the College (~1500 current majors have not completed the Speaking and Writing or Math core curriculum)
- We are not transitioning high-achieving students into the College very efficiently (~1300 students currently in University College have an intended A & S major and have completed S&W and Math core)
- Our majors take far too many lower division and not enough upper division courses
- Many of our students are not fully engaged in their major/minor program

While many factors outside of the direct control of the College certainly affect our graduation efficiency (University admission policies, for example), there are some definite steps that can be implemented at the College level to ameliorate the situation. Below is an outline for an integrated program for improving our students' admission into, and progress through, our College.

I. Facilitated Admission

- a. Create a partnership between A & S College Advising, University Advisement Center and A & S Program Advising to identify and proactively recruit qualified freshmen and sophomores into their intended majors.
 - The College office will generate tracking reports to identify qualified students currently housed in UAC
 - Qualifications are determined in collaboration with each specific program
 - Qualified students are "approved" as a group by program
 - UAC advisors inform students that they are being transferred to A & S
 - Students are admitted and then must attend a joint admission seminar
 - Scheduled at appropriate times during the semester
 - Joint participation by College, Program and Career/Student Services
 - Seminars also serve as student services "reminder" orientation (partnership with NSO)
- b. New minimum admission requirements
 - 26 earned hours at UNM
 - Completion of Math core
 - Completion of Speaking/Writing core
 - Completion of Foreign Language Core
 - Completion of other program determined specifications (not to exceed 9 hours)

The requirement of 21-30 hours of core courses (depending upon initial Math and English placement) should still allow the majority of intended majors to become eligible for admission into the College by the end of their third semester with 36-54 hours completed.

II. Graduation Protocols

- a. New College requirements
 - Raise required upper division to 54 hours (from current 42) or 51 hours plus completion of the fourth semester of a foreign language
 - Remove College Group requirements (12 - 27 hours, median of 18)
 - Remove requirement of 128 A & S hours
 - Retain residency and 96 hours of A & S courses
- b. Facilitated Graduation
 - Graduation check at 75 hours
 - Jointly administered as group seminars with Program advising
 - Four semester graduation contract at student option
 - Grad Express transcript check two semesters before intended graduation
 - Curriculum alignment and multi-year scheduling of upper division courses

Considerations for Implementation

This proposed program has been discussed and refined at several levels within the University during the past six months:

- College and program advising staff
- Provost Committee on Advising
- University College Advising
- Ad hoc College Chairs Committee on Student Success
- Faculty Senate A and R Committee
- Enrollment Management
- Center for Academic Program Support
- A & S Chairs and Directors retreat

It has been directly voted upon by:

- A & S Chairs and Directors (passed unanimously with 3 abstentions at 10/3/11 monthly meeting))
- A & S Curriculum Committee (passed 6 -1 on 10/19/11)
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In particular, the removal of College Group requirements, coupled with the increase in required upper division credits and improved advising contacts at both College and Program levels, will induce students to satisfy their graduation requirements by taking additional upper division courses that fit with their chosen major/minor. This should produce:

- Increased student engagement in their chosen program of studies
- Increased upper division credits for the College which should translate into increased formula funding and a stronger argument to hire tenure track faculty to teach upper division courses

The current group requirements actually exacerbate the upper division credit problem by inducing students to “double down” on the core by adding an average of 18-20 additional hours of 100/200 level core courses. These additional courses do little to increase actual proficiency in the given groups and delay graduation.

The only portion of this proposed program which has generated substantial concerns is the removal of College Group requirements. It needs to be stressed, however, that this change is not an isolated action but part of an integrated program that addresses the current barriers to graduation within the College. Group requirements require A&S students to complete additional coursework in six of the seven areas included in the core curriculum. Most students opt out of the language requirement because they can fulfill most of the other group requirements by taking a single additional class, but often must take three additional courses over three semesters to fulfill the language group requirement. Of the approximately 860 Spring 2011 graduates from A&S, about 290 (35%) completed the foreign language group. Only 17% completed the foreign language group requirement when it was not a part of their major/minor requirements (and thus was satisfied by default).

Throughout the month of October, the Dean and Associate Deans met with chairs of language departments and participated in faculty meetings of Programs that expressed some concerns over the removal of Group Requirements (Foreign Languages and Literatures, Spanish and Portuguese, Latin American Studies and Linguistics). We have listened carefully to everyone’s concerns and amended the reform package in two ways that we hope will be seen as effective responses to the concerns that have been raised.

First, we have added completion of the foreign language core requirement as part of the new minimum requirement for entrance into the College of Arts and Sciences. Second, while the original language for graduation requirements raised the minimum number of upper division credits from 42 to 54, the current revised proposal requires 54 hours of upper division coursework or 51 upper division hours plus the completion of the fourth semester of a foreign language. This second change would provide students with an incentive to take four semesters of foreign language that is nearly identical to the present system of College group requirements. The proposed changes will require students to be exposed to a foreign language early in their academic careers (in order to be admitted to the College) and preserve a four semester language sequence as an option for satisfying a portion of the graduation requirements for those students who would professionally or personally benefit from increased proficiency in a foreign language.

Finally, many of the sections students take to fulfill group requirements are taught by part-time instructors. The College has announced a ten year plan to do everything it can to replace part-time instructors with tenure track faculty, lecturers, and GAships, all of which are more expensive than part-time instruction. Removing group requirements should enable us to achieve our long-term goal by reducing demand for the courses taught by part-time instructors.

August 31, 2011

To: Mark Peceny, Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences

From: Mark Ondrias, Associate Dean

Realigning Arts and Sciences Admission and Graduation Protocols
to Facilitate Student Success

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- Only 38% of the A&S majors with > 128 hours graduated.

According to the College Advisement Office, the major reasons why students are delayed from graduating in their “intended semester” are (in roughly equal numbers):

- Incomplete major/minor requirements
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- Not meeting College group requirements

Other requirements, most notably the University 128 credit requirement, are not a significant deterrent to graduation.

These numbers reveal a systematic problem in student progress through our curriculum. Our majors are easily accumulating hours but not making it to graduation. Many factors conspire to produce these results but some are more salient than others.

- We accept too many underprepared students into the College (~1500 current majors have not completed the Speaking and Writing or Math core curriculum)
- We are not transitioning high achieving students into the College very efficiently (~1300 students currently in University College have an intended A&S major and have completed S&W and Math core)
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While many factors outside of the direct control of the College certainly affect our graduation efficiency (University admission policies, for example), there are some definite steps that can be implemented at the College level to ameliorate the situation. Below is an outline for an integrated program to improving our student’s admission into and progress through our College.

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The only portion of the plan that has generated substantial concerns has been the removal of College Group requirements. It needs to be stressed that this change is not an isolated action, but is part of an integrated program that addresses the current barriers to graduation within the College.

In particular, the removal of College Group requirements coupled with the increase in required upper division credits and improved advising contacts (at both College and Program levels) will induce students to satisfy their graduation requirements by taking additional upper division courses that fit with their chosen major/minor. This should produce:

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- Increased upper division credits for the College which should translate into increase formula funding and a stronger argument to hire tenure track faculty to teach upper division courses

The current group requirements actually exacerbate the “upper division credit problem” by inducing students to “double down” on the core by adding an average of 18-20 additional hours of 100/200 level “core “ courses. These do little to increase actual proficiency in the given groups.

The Foreign Language (FL) group is particularly problematic in that it necessitates an additional three course *sequence* (requiring three semesters to complete) unlike other Group requirements that can be satisfied with individual 100/200 level courses taken in any sequence convenient to a student’s major/minor program. As a result the large majority of our graduates select FL as the one group (of seven) that they are allowed to opt out of. Of the ~860 Spring 2011 graduates from A&S, ~290 (35%) completed the FL Group and only 17% completed FL Group when it was not a part of their major/minor requirements (and thus was satisfied by default).