

William Paterson University Policy Academic Policy

SUBJECT:	Degree Requirements		TITLE:	Requirements for Completing an Undergraduate Degree	
CATEGORY: Check One	Board of Trustees <input type="checkbox"/>	University <input type="checkbox"/>	Functional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School/Unit <input type="checkbox"/>	
Responsible Executive:	Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs		Responsible Office:	Office of the Provost	
CODING:	02-20-01-02-07	ADOPTED:	9-1-1987	AMENDED: [date amended]	9-1-1987

LAST REVIEWED: 9-1-
2015

PURPOSE

This policy describes the university academic requirements necessary for the successful completion of an undergraduate degree.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Office of the Provost is responsible for enforcement of this policy

POLICY

To qualify for an undergraduate degree at William Paterson University, a student must earn a minimum of 120 of the correct credits in an authorized program of study to which one has been duly admitted, and achieve a minimum 2.0 (C) cumulative grade-point average and a 2.0 average in the chosen major. Due to requirements of federal or state law, some majors may require more than 120 credits and a GPA greater than 2.0 in the major for retention and graduation. Students are expected to be familiar with major and other degree requirements. Interdisciplinary programs or honors programs may also have unique requirements.

PROCEDURES

Degree requirements are generally composed of the following:

- Foundations (if required—does not count for credit): 0
- Pioneer Success Seminar:
- University Common Core
- Language Requirement
- Writing and Technology Intensive Courses
- Major
- Minor and/or Electives

University First Year Foundations Program

The First Year Foundations Program helps to prepare you for college level courses and courses required for graduation. The First-Year Foundations is a form of academic support, offering courses that are designed to help you improve your skills in mathematics, college reading, and writing. The courses offered are:

- BRI 1090 – College Reading/Rate Improvement
- ENG 1080 – Basic Writing
- MATH 1060- Basic Mathematics with Algebra

Each course is offered for 3 credits and each counts toward your semester credit load. These credits are included in determining your class level (first year, sophomore, junior, etc), in defining full time status, and for financial aid purposes. However, **these credits do not count toward graduation.**

In order to determine if you need to take courses in the First-Year Foundations Program, you may be required to take a Placement Test. This test will determine the appropriate First-Year Foundations and college level courses you should take in your first year at William Paterson University.

After taking the test you will receive a letter informing you of your First-Year Foundations placement. You must complete all First-Year Foundation courses by the beginning of the third semester. You will also be taking college level courses alongside First-Year Foundation courses.

Pioneer Success Seminar (PSS)

All first-year students are required to take this 1 credit course during their first semester at the university.

University Core Curriculum

The University Core Curriculum (UCC) is the “general education” program at William Paterson University. To allow for the better integration of the UCC and academic major, students may use up to three courses in their major to fulfill UCC requirements. One of these UCC/major courses may be a foundational course offered in Areas One, Two or Three. All UCC/major designated courses must be approved for use within the UCC.

Courses in Areas Four, Five and Six (Diversity and Justice, Community and Civic Engagement, and Global Awareness) may be within student majors. Such courses can thus be used to satisfy both Core and major requirements.

Sequence

To ensure a developmental sequence of courses within the Core, students are expected to:

- Take at least 15 credits in Areas 1-3 before they take Area 4, and
- Take Area 4 before they take Area 5.

Area		Credits	Level
1. Personal Well-Being		3	1000 or 2000
2. Expression:	Arts and Communication	3	1000 or 2000
	Writing	3	1000 or 2000
	Literature	3	1000 or 2000
3. Ways of Knowing	Philosophical Perspectives	3	1000 or 2000

	Historical Perspectives	3	1000 or 2000
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	6	1000 or 2000
	Scientific Perspectives	4	1000 or 2000
	Quantitative Thinking	3	1000 or 2000
4.	Diversity and Justice	3	2000
5.	Community and Civic Engagement	3	2000 or higher
6.	Global Awareness	3	2000 or higher
	Total	40	

Writing Intensive (WI) and Technology Intensive (TI) Requirements

William Paterson University is committed to a nurturing learning environment in which writing and technology literacies are taken seriously across disciplines. Many courses at the University are designated as “WI” or “TI.” These are attributes to courses which could be in any major discipline or in the UCC.

- Four (4) Writing Intensive (WI) courses
- Two (2) Technology Intensive (TI) courses

Thus any course - within the UCC or any major, or any minor, or any free elective - that has been designated as a WI or TI course can be used by a student to satisfy the above requirements.

Foreign Language

William Paterson requires all students to complete up to 6 credits (two courses in one language) of a foreign language within the Basic I to Intermediate I sequence. Students with no prior experience in a chosen language begin with 1100 (Basic I) and fulfill their language requirement with the second semester 1110 (Basic II) of that language. Students with prior experience in a chosen language need to be placed into a given level of the 1100, 1110, 2100 sequence (see below). The foreign language requirement is met upon completion of two semesters in the language from placement level or upon completion of exemption from the Intermediate I (2100) course.

For further information on foreign language placement please refer to:

www.wpunj.edu/officeoftesting/foreign-languages.dot.

The Major

Each student must pursue a course of study in sufficient depth to be acquainted with both the basic body of knowledge therein and the frontiers to which it reaches. Credit requirements for the academic majors vary according to type of program.

Credits to complete majors vary, so review requirements for your major to ensure that at least one half of the credits taken to complete a major must be earned at William Paterson University.

Multiple Major Courses of Study

A student may select a second major course of study. Upon successfully completing an additional major, the student is awarded a single degree. Notation of both major courses of study is made on the student's official transcript and diploma.

Minor

A minor is an optional academic program that a student may pursue in addition to their major program. Although students are not required to complete a minor in order to graduate, many minors are available for those students who wish to develop another area of specialization without the full depth of an academic major.

Minors consist of a specific sequence of courses usually totaling 18 credits. Similarly, to the major, students must complete one half of the required credits for a minor at William Paterson University. Students must have a minimum of 2.00 GPA to successfully complete the minor. At least one half of the credits must be original credits and cannot be used to complete another requirement.

Free Elective Courses

Students are encouraged to explore areas of study not included under the University Core Curriculum and not included in the major or minor courses of study.

Waivers

Waivers from university curriculum requirements may be provided when deemed educationally advantageous for an individual student. When the need for a waiver arises because of requirements for mandated courses set by an outside accrediting agency, priority is given to the requirement of the accrediting agency. A student who requests a waiver should apply to the major department chairperson, who then forwards the request to the appropriate academic dean.

Academic Residency Requirement

All students must complete the last 30 credits in residence at William Paterson University.

Time Limit for Degree

A baccalaureate degree must be completed within a period of ten years from the time the student first matriculated. Waivers and extensions of time must be approved by the dean of the college of the student's major.

By Direction of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: 09/01/2015

(Degree Requirements)
Amended or Adopted: 09/01/2015

Page 4 of 5

