

General requirements for all baccalaureate degrees

Requirements for baccalaureate degrees

To earn a baccalaureate degree a student must complete (1) University requirements, (2) general education requirements, (3) specific requirements for the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, or Bachelor of Science Degree, and (4) requirements for a major.

Students bear final responsibility for ensuring that the courses taken are applicable toward satisfying their degree requirements.

1. University Requirement

- ◆ **Minimum number of credits (lower-division plus upper-division):**180 (180-205 in engineering)
- ◆ **Minimum number of upper-division credits (300- and 400-level):**72
- ◆ **Complete General Education Requirements** (Not required for Liberal Studies or the Honors Program)

2. University Studies (General Education Requirement)

The purpose of the general education program at Portland State University is to facilitate students in acquiring and developing the knowledge, abilities, and attitudes which form a foundation for lifelong learning. This foundation includes the capacity and the propensity to engage in inquiry and critical thinking, to use various forms of communication for learning and expression, to gain an awareness of the broader human experience and its environment, and appreciate the responsibilities of persons to themselves, to each other, and to community.

To accomplish this purpose all freshmen entering with fewer than 30 prior university credits are required to complete the following program (See current *Schedule of Classes* for course descriptions and capstone offerings):

- ◆ **Freshman Inquiry.** One year-long course which must be taken in sequence (UnSt 100-level) 15 credits
- ◆ **Sophomore Inquiry.** Students are required to choose three Sophomore Inquiry courses, each from a different University Studies cluster for a total of 12 credits (UnSt 200-level). 12 credits
- ◆ **Upper-Division Cluster (Junior and Senior Years).** Students are required to select three courses (for a total of 12 credits) from one upper-division cluster (300 to 400-level courses designated with a U) which is directly linked to one of the three Sophomore Inquiry classes they have taken previously 12 credits

Note: Students may not use any course to satisfy both cluster and major requirements. Cluster courses must be taken outside of the major department. This includes courses that might be cross-listed elsewhere with the major prefix.

◆ Senior Capstone

This 6-credit capstone course (UnSt 421) is the culminating general education course for seniors. Students join an interdisciplinary team, develop a strategy to address a problem or concern in the community, and implement this strategy over one, two, or three quarters of work. 6 credits

ATTENTION TRANSFER STUDENTS:

The following placement within University Studies is based on total credits accepted at term of admission to PSU.

- ◆ Transfer students who have earned fewer than 30 quarter credits of transfer work are required to complete all of the University Studies program requirements, including the entire sequence of Freshman Inquiry.
- ◆ Transfer students who have earned 30-44 quarter credits of transfer work are required to complete a Transfer Transition course (UnSt 201-210) and the University Studies program beginning with Sophomore Inquiry.
- ◆ Transfer students who have earned 45-89 quarter credits of transfer work are required to complete the University Studies program beginning with Sophomore Inquiry as follows: 45-59 credits, three courses; 60-74 credits, two courses; and 75-89 credits, one course. (The upper-division cluster must come from one of these Sophomore Inquiry classes.) Transfer Transition if not required, may count as a Sophomore Inquiry courses.
- ◆ Transfer students who have earned 90 or more credits of transfer work are required to complete the University Studies program beginning with an Upper-Division Cluster. It is recommended that they complete the Sophomore Inquiry course directly linked to the Upper-Division Cluster they choose.

ATTENTION CO-ADMITTED STUDENTS:

Contact the Community College Relations Office, 503-725-8387, for placement rules regarding University Studies.

3. Requirements for Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science Degrees

(Students must choose only one.)

Courses taken to satisfy BA/BS requirements may also be used to meet any other requirements if they conform to the regular qualification for those requirements.

◆ For the Bachelor of Arts degree:

Students must complete 28 credits to include a minimum of 12 credits in the arts and letters academic distribution area, with a minimum of 4 credits in the area of fine and performing arts; a minimum of 12 credits in the science and/or social science distribution areas, with a minimum of 4 credits in the science distribution area; and 4 credits in a foreign language numbered 203 or higher (conducted in the target language). See foreign language requirements listed below.

Foreign language requirement. The B.A. language requirement is not defined in credits, but in terms of competence: for graduation, a student must demonstrate competence equivalent to that normally attained after two years of college study. Students with no previous knowledge of a foreign language are advised to complete two years in a language.

Students who already possess sufficient competence (or who wish to prepare themselves outside of formal classes) may meet the B.A. language requirement in any of the following ways: (1) Completion in any foreign language of 203 or its equivalent with a passing grade; (2) completion in any foreign language of a course that has 203 or higher as a prerequisite; (3) Demonstration of proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to that attained after two years of college study. There are three ways to demonstrate equivalency proficiency: a) in French, German, or Spanish, by passing the CLEP examination with a score high enough for second-year level credit (see page 47); b) in other languages regularly taught by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures by passing a departmental examination with a score high enough for second-year level credit; c) in any language for which the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has a qualified tester by passing a non-credit departmental examination. English satisfies the B.A. language requirement for students whose official transcripts demonstrate that their secondary education was completed in a foreign language. Such students may not enroll in first- or second-year courses in the language in which they received their secondary education. (See page 135).

- ◆ **For the Bachelor of Music degree:** Students must complete the program of music and applied music as prescribed by the Department of Music.
- ◆ **For the Bachelor of Science degree:** Students must complete 28 credits to include a minimum of 12 credits in the science academic distribution area (excluding mathematical sciences/statistics) a minimum of 12 credits in the arts and letters and/or the social sciences distribution areas, and 4 credits in mathematical sciences/statistics. A minimum of 8 of the 12 credits in the science distribution area must be in coursework with its integrated or associated laboratory or field work. Unless otherwise specified, only courses within the science distribution area that have an explicit indication of lab or field work as part of the catalog description will satisfy the B.S. degree requirement for lab/field work.

ACADEMIC DISTRIBUTION AREAS

- ◆ **The arts and letters academic distribution area consists of undergraduate courses from the following:**
Applied Linguistics, Architecture, Art, Arts and Letters, Black Studies (BSt 221, 351, 352, 353, 421, 424, 425, 426, 427 only), English (except for Wr 115, 120, 121, 222, 227, 323), Foreign Languages and Literatures, Music, Philosophy, Speech Communication, Theater Arts.

- ◆ **The science academic distribution area consists of undergraduate courses from the following:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Geology, Mathematics/Statistics, Physics, Science.
- ◆ **The social science academic distribution area consists of undergraduate courses from the following:** Administration of Justice (AJ 220 and 330 only), Anthropology, Black Studies (except BSt 221, 351, 352, 353, 421, 424, 425, 426, 427), Chicano/Latino Studies, Child and Family Studies, Economics, Geography, History, International Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Social Science, Sociology, Urban Studies and Planning, Women's Studies.

4. Major Requirements

For major program requirements see description in *Bulletin*.

GENERAL LIMITATIONS

- ◆ Maximum number of credits transferred from regionally accredited two-year institutions: 124
- ◆ Maximum number of correspondence credits (transferred from schools recognized as institutions of higher learning): 60
- ◆ Maximum number of credits graded P (pass) that may be counted for graduation: 45

Note restriction on P (pass) grades used for residence requirements (see below).

- ◆ Maximum number of Cooperative Education credits that may be applied toward degree requirements: 12
- ◆ Minimum cumulative grade point average: 2.00 on all residence work and 2.00 on all courses, no matter where taken, in major field (some departments require a GPA greater than 2.00 in the major).
- ◆ Residence credit: 45 (excluding credit by examination) of the final 60 or 165 of the total credits presented. *Restriction:* At least 25 of the last 45 credits must be for differentiated grades. Credits earned by participation in the Oregon State Inter-institutional Program at the Malheur Field Station, some Oregon State System Programs of Study Abroad, and some National Student Exchange programs also count as residence credit.

