

Portland State University Faculty Senate Motion

Revision to BA-BS Requirements – Section A: Revise Minimum Credits

Background, rationale, and preliminary discussions

In response to the report prepared by the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Summer Research on Academic Program Examination / Reorganization, in October 2020, Faculty Senate charged a joint task force of the Academic Requirements Committee (ARC) and University Curriculum Committee (UCC) with evaluating the BA/BS requirements for curricular inefficiencies and recommend ways to streamline them. The task force submitted its report to Faculty Senate in early February, 2021. Material for this motion is drawn from the results of the task force's inquiries.

The task force supports the current structure of the current BA-BS requirements.

The task force believes, however, that some of our graduation requirements as currently written may be inadvertently contributing to transfer students graduating with excessive credits. In its research, the task force found that a number of student petitions involved a shortfall in the number of credits accrued toward BA and BS requirements. For example, many Fine and Performing Arts courses at a community college are 3-credits, whereas PSU requires 4 credits. In addition, one year of Science coursework at a semester-system institution may transfer as 10 or 11 credits, whereas PSU requires a total of 12 credits. Many students take an extra 4-credit course to remove a 1- or 2-credit deficiency. The motion proposed here enhances the ease of transferring courses while maintaining the thrust of the requirements, e.g., students must have at least *one year* of college-level science coursework. Given that more than 60% of our undergraduate population are transfer students, we can enhance the transfer experience by modifying the requirements without “watering down” the degree.

The current BA Degree Requirements

- Total of 28 credits
- 4 credits in a language (203 or higher)
- 12 credits in arts & letters (4 credits must be in PFA)
- 12 credits in sciences and/or social sciences

The current BS Degree Requirements

- Total of 28 credits
- 4 credits in college-level math or statistics
- 12 credits in sciences (8 crs of 12 must be coursework with a lab/fieldwork component)
- 12 credits in arts & letters and/or social sciences

We suggest the following motion related to the BA and BS requirements:

Motion presented by the Academic Requirements Committee

The Faculty Senate will revise the BA and BS degree requirements in the following ways to better accommodate 3 credit quarter courses and semester credit.

BA Degree Requirements (minimum 23 credits in the following):

- Two years college level language proficiency (typically demonstrated by completion of a minimum of 3 credits in 203 or a more advanced level) Note: students who test out of this requirement will still need 3 credits in language or arts & letters.

- 3 credit minimum in fine and performing arts course
- 7 credits minimum arts & letters
- 3 credit minimum science or math
- 7 credits minimum social science and/or science/math

BS Degree Requirements (minimum 23 credits in the following):

- One year of science courses (minimum 10 credits total), which must include two courses with a lab or fieldwork component.
- One college-level mathematics or statistics course (minimum 3 credits) taught in a Mathematics or Statistics department.
- 10 credits minimum arts & letters and/or social science