

Op3.04-27

Rationale for proposed changes to General Baccalaureate Degree Policies and Requirements

The proposed changes include updating the minimum grade point average (GPA) requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Education and Bachelor of Music Education degrees based on changes to Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education certification rules. These are minimum GPA requirements, and programs have the option to have higher GPA requirements that would be reflected in their program requirements in the catalog.

The proposed changes also include changes to baccalaureate degree requirements establishing a university framework for developing 90-credit-hour applied baccalaureate degrees in carefully selected, career-focused fields. These programs can provide students with a more affordable and timely pathway to a bachelor's degree while responding to documented workforce needs and expanding access for adult learners, transfer students, and other students seeking direct preparation for employment or career advancement.

The revision does not reduce the University's commitment to academic quality. General education, upper-division coursework, applied learning, faculty oversight, assessment, and the Public Affairs Capstone Experience are required. Additionally, each proposed program must complete established faculty governance processes and receive all required state, specialized accreditation, and Higher Learning Commission approvals before implementation. The revised policy also requires transparent communication regarding transfer, licensure, and graduate education implications and ongoing review of academic quality, student outcomes, workforce demand, and program sustainability.

Financial Implications

A focused, 90-credit-hour degree can expand access to higher education, and attract new students, by lowering the time and financial costs required to earn a bachelor's degree. By reducing barriers while maintaining appropriate academic rigor and career relevance, these programs can help more students enroll, persist, and complete a college degree.

Transitioning a program from 120 to 90 credit hours represents a **25% reduction** in required coursework per student. To offset this reduction and maintain level Student Credit Hour (SCH) production, enrollment must increase by a factor of 1.33. Consequently, the program will require approximately **33.3% higher student enrollment** to generate the same total SCH and maintain current gross tuition-and-fee revenue.

- **The Risk of Inaction:** Maintaining a 120-hour curriculum while competing against peer institutions that offer streamlined **90-credit-hour degrees** poses a risk of enrollment decline.

- **The Opportunity of Efficiency:** Transitioning to a 90-hour model positions programs to competitively capture market share. Under this more efficient structure, **every net-new student enrolled** accelerates total SCH recovery and drives incremental baseline revenue growth.

Original Policy

General Baccalaureate Degree Policies and Requirements

Op3.04-27 General Baccalaureate Degree Policies and Requirements

General degree policies

Majors and options

A major is an academic program of study. Some majors require completion of an option which is a specialized area of study within the major. The option title will appear on the student's transcript but not on the diploma.

Multiple degrees and/or multiple majors

For students with two majors, the first will determine the students' department and dean for various administrative purposes.

Students who complete the requirements for two or more majors under the same degree in the same semester will be awarded one diploma listing all majors. If either major requires a minor, the other major will fulfill this requirement. An additional major option or university certificate will not fulfill a minor requirement.

Students who complete the requirements for two or more different degrees in the same semester will be awarded a diploma for each degree.

Multiple use of courses

Courses may be counted toward meeting the requirements in more than one area (major and minor, two majors, major and general education requirements, etc.) unless specifically prohibited by the academic departments and/or degree requirements and so stated in the catalog.

Courses completed for graduate credit other than approved mixed credit courses cannot be applied toward an undergraduate degree program, nor can courses taken for undergraduate credit be applied toward a graduate degree program.

Additional undergraduate degree and/or major

Students who have previously earned a baccalaureate degree may return to pursue an additional major or degree. A student may also pursue multiple majors and/or degrees at the same time.

A student may not receive a second baccalaureate degree with the same major (even if the option within the major is different) as a degree previously earned unless one of the degrees is an education degree (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Education or Bachelor of Music Education) and the other degree is not.

Students pursuing multiple options of the same major must graduate with the multiple options during the same semester of graduation as the student may not return in a later semester and be awarded the same major again.

Students who have earned a bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) are considered to have fulfilled general education requirements for the subsequent major/degree. Additionally, for students pursuing a subsequent degree that requires a minor, the major on the previous degree will fulfill the requirement.

Minors

Minors may only be awarded as part of an earned degree and must be of the same degree type as the degree. A minor cannot be in the same field of study as a current or previously earned major. A minor cannot be awarded independently and students cannot complete a minor post-graduation to add to a previously awarded degree.

Teacher certification

A Bachelor of Science in Education or Bachelor of Music Education degree may be granted without a recommendation for a teaching certificate if the graduate does not present evidence of good moral character as determined by the Professional Education Committee.

Time limit

Credit for courses completed in the major more than eight years before the student's date of graduation may be disallowed by the major department.

Bachelor's degree requirements

Catalog of graduation

Students shall satisfy the General Education, General Baccalaureate Degree Requirements, and Scholastic Honors requirements in effect upon first enrollment as a

degree-seeking student at Missouri State. Major and minor requirements and other specific degree requirements in effect at the time the student is admitted to that program shall be satisfied. Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Education and Bachelor of Music Education degrees must meet all Missouri state teacher certification requirements in effect at the time the certificate is granted.

If a student re-enrolls after an absence of one calendar year or more from Missouri State, requirements in effect at the time of readmission as a degree-seeking student must be satisfied. Any undergraduate student who re-enrolls at Missouri State within one year of being released from military assignment shall be allowed to continue under the same "catalog of graduation." Any undergraduate student who had been admitted to a degree program or any graduate student with an approved program of study prior to mobilization and who re-enrolls within one year of being released from military assignment shall not be subject to any additional degree requirements enacted in the interim.

Transfer students from Missouri public colleges and universities may follow the general education and general baccalaureate degree requirements in effect at Missouri State when they first enrolled (or re-enrolled after an absence of one calendar year or more) as degree-seeking students at the institutions from which they transferred. The general education catalog year for these students will be established at the point of admission on the basis of this policy. Students who elect instead to follow the general education and general baccalaureate degree requirements in effect during their first semester may do so by notifying the Office of the Registrar.

Credits and grade point average requirements

All candidates for any baccalaureate degree must meet the following minimum credits and grade point average requirements:

1. Completed a total of at least 120 semester hours of credit. (**Note:** This requirement first applies to students applying to graduate in the **spring 2018 semester.**)
2. Completed 40 hours of upper division credit (courses numbered 300 and above).
3. Attained at least a 2.00 Missouri State cumulative GPA.
4. Attained at least a 2.00 combined (MSU and transfer) GPA.
5. Attained at least a 2.00 general education GPA on all courses used to meet the student's General Education requirements.
6. Attained at least a 2.00 GPA on all courses that are required in the major.
7. Attained at least a 2.00 GPA on all courses that are required in the minor.

Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Education and Bachelor of Music Education degrees are also required to meet the following additional grade point average requirements. All GPA requirements include both Missouri State and transfer grades.

1. Attain at least a 2.75 combined (MSU and transfer) cumulative GPA.
2. Attain at least a 3.00 GPA in the certificate subject area (major field of study).
3. Attain at least a 3.00 GPA in any additional certificate subject area.
4. Attain at least a 3.00 GPA in the professional education courses.
5. Have no grade lower than a “C” in all professional education courses.

Note: Many majors and minors require a GPA higher than the above stated minimums for admission, graduation, or both. Such requirements are listed as a part of the major or minor requirements.

Public Affairs Capstone Experience

All candidates for any baccalaureate degree must have completed a capstone experience (the equivalent of at least three cumulative credit hours) related to the major. The capstone experience allows a student to demonstrate the capacity to synthesize and apply information, demonstrate analytical, practical, and interpretive skills and promulgate ideas acquired from the major to bear on one significant summative experience, project, or class intrinsic to two elements of the public affairs mission. The capstone experiences/projects/classes will be designed and approved by individual departments or programs. The course number and credit hours assigned to the capstone experience will be determined by the department and specified within each major’s requirements.

University exit survey

All students admitted into a baccalaureate degree program must complete a University Exit survey. Students must take this University Exit Survey prior to graduation and upon the completion of 102 or more credit hours.

Students who complete more than one baccalaureate degree are only required to take the survey one time. Requests for exceptions to the survey requirement due to extreme hardship should be directed to the Office of Assessment, Exit Survey Administrator. Information regarding the [University Exit Survey may be obtained online](#).

Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination

In compliance with Mo. Rev. Stat. § 170.013, all undergraduate, degree-seeking students with a general education catalog semester/year of fall 2019 or later must, prior to

graduation, pass an examination on the provisions and principles of American civics (Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination) with a score of seventy percent or greater.

Residence requirements

A candidate for a degree who transfers credit from another college must meet the following residence requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of at least 30 hours of courses administered by the Springfield Campus.
2. Complete at least 12 hours of upper division credit in the major in courses administered by the Springfield Campus.
3. Complete at least 6 hours of upper or lower division credit in the minor in courses administered by the Springfield Campus.
4. Complete at least 20 out of the last 30 hours in courses administered by the Springfield Campus. Students who have completed at least 90 hours in courses administered by the Springfield Campus, may petition the department head of their major to take less than 20 out of the last 30 hours on the Springfield Campus. If this petition is granted, written approval from the department head must be forwarded to the Office of the Registrar prior to the semester of graduation.

Exceptions to 20 out of the last 30 hours requirement are made for the following: a) Medical Technology majors when the last year is completed at an approved school of Medical Technology, b) Radiography majors when the last two years are completed at an approved school of Radiologic Technology, c) Animal Science majors when the last two years are completed at the University of Missouri School of Veterinary Medicine, d) Animal Science majors when the last year is completed at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, e) students who participate in a Missouri State education abroad or exchange program approved by the Office of Global Education and Engagement, and f) students in the West Plains Campus completion degree programs.

Appeals for exceptions

Students who wish to appeal for exceptions to the general baccalaureate degree requirements should submit an appeal to the Degrees Committee. The [procedure for submitting an appeal](#) is maintained by the Office of the Provost.

Proposed Version with Redline

General Baccalaureate Degree Policies and Requirements

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Courses may be counted toward meeting the requirements in more than one area (major and minor, two majors, major and general education requirements, etc.) unless specifically prohibited by the academic departments and/or degree requirements and so stated in the catalog.

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degrees is an education degree (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Education or Bachelor of Music Education) and the other degree is not.

Students pursuing multiple options of the same major must graduate with the multiple options during the same semester of graduation as the student may not return in a later semester and be awarded the same major again.

Students who have earned a bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) are considered to have fulfilled general education requirements for the subsequent major/degree. Additionally, for students pursuing a subsequent degree that requires a minor, the major on the previous degree will fulfill the requirement.

Minors

Minors may only be awarded as part of an earned degree and must be of the same degree type as the degree. A minor cannot be in the same field of study as a current or previously earned major. A minor cannot be awarded independently and students cannot complete a minor post-graduation to add to a previously awarded degree.

Teacher certification

A Bachelor of Science in Education or Bachelor of Music Education degree may be granted without a recommendation for a teaching certificate if the graduate does not present evidence of good moral character as determined by the Professional Education Committee.

Time limit

Credit for courses completed in the major more than eight years before the student's date of graduation may be disallowed by the major department.

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Catalog of graduation

Students shall satisfy the General Education, General Baccalaureate Degree Requirements, and Scholastic Honors requirements in effect upon first enrollment as a degree-seeking student at Missouri State. Major and minor requirements and other specific degree requirements in effect at the time the student is admitted to that program shall be satisfied. Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Education and Bachelor of Music Education degrees must meet all Missouri state teacher certification requirements in effect at the time the certificate is granted.

If a student re-enrolls after an absence of one calendar year or more from Missouri State, requirements in effect at the time of readmission as a degree-seeking student must be satisfied. Any undergraduate student who re-enrolls at Missouri State within one year of being released from military assignment shall be allowed to continue under the same "catalog of graduation." Any undergraduate student who had been admitted to a degree program or any graduate student with an approved program of study prior to mobilization and who re-enrolls within one year of being released from military assignment shall not be subject to any additional degree requirements enacted in the interim.

Transfer students from Missouri public colleges and universities may follow the general education and general baccalaureate degree requirements in effect at Missouri State when they first enrolled (or re-enrolled after an absence of one calendar year or more) as degree-seeking students at the institutions from which they transferred. The general education catalog year for these students will be established at the point of admission on the basis of this policy. Students who elect instead to follow the general education and general baccalaureate degree requirements in effect during their first semester may do so by notifying the Office of the Registrar.

Credits and grade point average requirements

Except as provided under the focused Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs, all candidates for a baccalaureate degree must meet the following minimum credit and grade-point-average requirements:

1. Completed a total of at least 120 semester hours of credit. (**Note:** This requirement first applies to students applying to graduate in the **spring 2018 semester**.)
2. Completed 40 hours of upper division credit (courses numbered 300 and above).
3. Attained at least a 2.00 Missouri State cumulative GPA.
4. Attained at least a 2.00 combined (MSU and transfer) GPA.
5. Attained at least a 2.00 general education GPA on all courses used to meet the student's General Education requirements.
6. Attained at least a 2.00 GPA on all courses that are required in the major.
7. Attained at least a 2.00 GPA on all courses that are required in the minor.

Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Education and Bachelor of Music Education degrees are also required to meet the following additional grade point average requirements. All GPA requirements include both Missouri State and transfer grades.

Deleted: All candidates for any baccalaureate degree must meet the following minimum credits and grade point average requirements

1. Attain at least a 2.5 GPA in the certificate subject area (major field of study).
2. Attain at least a 2.5 GPA in any additional certificate subject area.
3. Attain at least a 3.00 GPA in the professional education courses.
4. Have no grade lower than a “C-” in all professional education courses.

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Note: Many majors and minors require a GPA higher than the above stated minimums for admission, graduation, or both. Such requirements are listed as a part of the major or minor requirements.

Focused Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs

Missouri State University may offer Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs requiring a minimum of 90 semester hours when the programs are intentionally designed to prepare students for employment or career advancement in an identified occupational field. Focused, applied baccalaureate degree programs must maintain the academic rigor, breadth of learning, and student learning outcomes appropriate to a baccalaureate credential.

A focused Bachelor of Applied Science program must:

1. Require completion of at least 90 semester hours of credit, including at least 36 hours of upper-division credit in courses numbered 300 or above.
2. Include the University's current general education requirements for the 120 credit hour baccalaureate and a Public Affairs Capstone Experience equivalent to at least three cumulative credit hours.
3. Include a coherent, faculty-designed major curriculum that develops the disciplinary knowledge, applied competencies, and transferable skills necessary for employment and continued professional development in the identified career field.
4. Establish program-level learning outcomes and assessment practices demonstrating that graduates achieve learning at a level appropriate to a baccalaureate degree.
5. Demonstrate alignment with documented workforce needs and include meaningful consultation with employers, industry representatives, professional associations, or other external partners.
6. Satisfy all applicable professional licensure, specialized accreditation, state authorization, and institutional accreditation requirements.

7. Provide prospective and enrolled students with clear information regarding the program's credit-hour requirements, admission and graduation requirements, transferability of credits, eligibility for professional licensure or certification, and implications for admission to graduate or professional programs.

8. Each proposed program must complete established faculty governance processes and receive all required state, specialized accreditation, and Higher Learning Commission approvals before implementation.

Unless specifically modified by the approved curriculum of the degree program, students enrolled in a focused Bachelor of Applied Science degree program must satisfy all other general baccalaureate degree policies and requirements, including applicable grade-point-average, residence, civics examination, and graduation requirements.

Public Affairs Capstone Experience

All candidates for any baccalaureate degree must have completed a capstone experience (the equivalent of at least three cumulative credit hours) related to the major. The capstone experience allows a student to demonstrate the capacity to synthesize and apply information, demonstrate analytical, practical, and interpretive skills and promulgate ideas acquired from the major to bear on one significant summative experience, project, or class intrinsic to two elements of the public affairs mission. The capstone experiences/projects/classes will be designed and approved by individual departments or programs. The course number and credit hours assigned to the capstone experience will be determined by the department and specified within each major's requirements.

University exit survey

All students admitted into a baccalaureate degree program must complete a University Exit survey. Students in a 120-credit-hour baccalaureate program must complete the survey upon completing 102 or more credit hours. Students in a focused, applied baccalaureate program must complete the survey after completing at least 75 percent of the credit hours required for the degree.

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Students who complete more than one baccalaureate degree are only required to take the survey one time. Requests for exceptions to the survey requirement due to extreme hardship should be directed to the Office of Assessment, Exit Survey Administrator. Information regarding the [University Exit Survey may be obtained online](#).

Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination

In compliance with Mo. Rev. Stat. § 170.013, all undergraduate, degree-seeking students with a general education catalog semester/year of fall 2019 or later must, prior to

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A candidate for a degree who transfers credit from another college must meet the following residence requirements:

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2. Complete at least 12 hours of upper division credit in the major in courses administered by the Springfield Campus.
3. Complete at least 6 hours of upper or lower division credit in the minor in courses administered by the Springfield Campus.
4. Complete at least 20 out of the last 30 hours in courses administered by the Springfield Campus. Students who have completed at least 90 hours ~~of a 120-credit-hour baccalaureate degree or 75 percent of the hours in a focused, applied baccalaureate degree~~ in courses administered by the Springfield Campus, may petition the department head of their major to take less than 20 out of the last 30 hours on the Springfield Campus. If this petition is granted, written approval from the department head must be forwarded to the Office of the Registrar prior to the semester of graduation.

Exceptions to ~~the residence~~ requirement are made for the following:

~~a) completion programs, b) dual degree students in cooperative programs, c) programs with a clinical component completed at an off-site location, and d) other specific programs identified and approved by the University.~~

Appeals for exceptions

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