

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS WAIVER AND SUBSTITUTION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the general policy and practice of Washburn University not to grant waivers of courses or substitutions for courses required for completion of degrees or programs. Washburn University ensures that no qualified person shall, by reason of disability, be denied access to, participation in, or the benefits of any program or activity operated by the University. Each qualified person shall receive appropriate and reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities, programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the individual situation. This policy is consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.

Academic requirements will be modified, as necessary, to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or currently enrolled students with disabilities. At the student's request, the Student Services Office will recommend academic adjustments in compliance with state and federal mandates. Academic requirements essential to programs of instruction are not considered discriminatory. Modifications shall not affect the substance of the educational program or compromise educational standards. Modifications may include changes in the length of time permitted for the completion of degree requirements (including course-load), substitution of specific courses required for academic programs, and adaptation of the manner in which specific courses are conducted.

THE THEORY BEHIND THE POLICY

At its meeting on May 5, 1994, the General Faculty of the University adopted a policy statement articulating that a Washburn University graduate should have the skills and areas of knowledge described in the General Education Program. It is the responsibility of the Vice President for Academic Affairs to ensure that every graduate attains the identified knowledge and skills.

GENERAL EDUCATION and REQUIREMENTS COMMON TO ALL DEGREES

A Washburn University graduate with a baccalaureate or associate degree should have the following skills:

- read effectively
- write effectively
- listen effectively
- speak clearly
- think creatively
- reason mathematically and understand numerical data
- process information in terms of synthesis and analysis
- interpret and assess human values, and
- solve problems using the methods of analysis considering evidence, relevance and validity

In addition, the areas of knowledge needed by a graduate are defined in this statement as:

The world of human ideas, aspirations, values and institutions - an understanding of

how ideas have been developed and expressed in history, the arts, literature, philosophy, religion, and the social sciences. This includes investigation into how human beings have existed at other times and in cultures other than our own.

The world of nature - an understanding of the scientific method and the physical world, knowing something about the earth, the nature of human beings as biological species and comprehending the implications of science and technology in our society.

Requirements for all baccalaureate degrees are:

- English Composition (EN 101 and EN 300)
- Physical Education (PE 198 Lifetime Wellness) with a grade of “C” or above
- Mathematics (MA 110 or MA 116 or above) with a grade of "C" or above

Requirements for all associate degrees are:

- English Composition (EN 101)
- Physical Education (PE 198 Lifetime Wellness) with a grade of “C” or above
- Mathematics (MA 110 or MA 116 or above) with a grade of "C" or above

Course Requirements for Specific Degrees and Programs

- Specific degrees and programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level have requirements that must be fulfilled. These are articulated in the University catalog(s).

PROCEDURE

A qualified student with a disability may seek a modification to an academic program by filing a request with the Student Services Office.

Upon receipt of the student's request, the Director reviews the request and convenes a Review Committee. The committee will consist of the area head of the program involved, a representative of the appropriate dean, the ADA Coordinator, and a representative of the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. This committee may seek additional information from individuals or offices deemed appropriate and necessary for it to reach a recommendation.

The Review Committee makes its recommendation concerning the requested program modification to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs considers the recommendation and notifies the student, Student Services Office, and the University Registrar of his/her determination on the requested program modification.