

Program Change Form: 99 CAS credit-hour rule

1. Reason for this program change:

CAS proposes to eliminate the 99 semester hours of credit in courses that are offered in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), or would normally be taught by a discipline in a college of arts and sciences, as a requirement for baccalaureate (BA, BEd, BFA, BM, BPA, or BS) degrees from Washburn.

The requirement of the 99 hours of CAS credit was originally intended to ensure students graduating with a baccalaureate degree had a strong background in the liberal arts and sciences disciplines. However, the requirement has more recently become an obstacle to graduation for some students, especially as the total hours required for a degree have decreased to 120 in most cases. In particular, this requirement has become cumbersome for students pursuing a dual degree, double major, or a minor in a program outside of CAS (e.g. business or social work), as well as students who transfer to a CAS major after being in another program. Current requirements for CAS bachelor degrees assure that students still have a strong background in liberal arts and sciences (a minimum of 79 hours for a BA—at least 92 hours is more likely given the average number of hours required in majors for a BA—and 84 for a BS). Eliminating this requirement is congruent with Washburn’s mission to eliminate barriers to graduation or transfer, as well as CAS’s goal to encourage interdisciplinary study.

2. Complete Revised Description:

Eliminate paragraph in catalog, p. 99:

~~To receive a BA, BEd, BFA, BM, BPA, or BS degree from Washburn University, a student must complete a minimum of 99 semester hours of credit in courses that either are offered in the College of Arts and Sciences or would normally be taught by a discipline in a college of arts and sciences.~~

CFC and CAS general faculty passed an amended version of the proposal as follows:

To receive a BA, BEd, BFA, BM, BPA, or BS degree from Washburn University, a student must complete a minimum of 99 84 semester hours of credit in courses that either are offered in the College of Arts and Sciences or would normally be taught by a discipline in a college of arts and sciences.

3. Describe the nature of the proposed change:

Students receiving a baccalaureate degree will no longer be required to take 99 semester hours of credit in courses that are offered in CAS.

4. Do you currently have the equipment and facilities to teach the classes within the proposed change:

Yes.

5. Does this change affect any other departments?

Yes. While this change will eliminate the requirement for students graduating with a baccalaureate degree to complete ~~99~~ 84 semesters hours of credit, it will also eliminate a barrier to students pursuing a double major or a minor in a program from outside of CAS (e.g. a modern languages student majoring or minoring in business).