

Article VI. Requirements for Graduation

Section 1. Credits

Every candidate for a Bachelor's Degree must complete courses totaling at least 124 acceptable credits.

- a. At least 30 of these credits must be earned in regularly graded courses at Whitman College, apart from all transfer, advanced placement, challenge, P-D-F, and credit-no credit credits.
- b. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 is required on all credit earned at Whitman College.

Section 2. Time Allowed for Completion of Degree Requirements

The 124 credits required for the Bachelor's Degree must be completed in not more than 9 semesters or equivalent except that additional time may be allowed in unusual cases by vote of the Board of Review.

Section 3. Residence

- a. Residence as a regular student in Whitman College shall be required of all degree candidates during the last 2 semesters prior to completion of degree requirements, except that a student who has on record not fewer than 116 credits may be allowed to complete his or her remaining degree requirements subsequent to such residence in the College under the following provisions:
 - 1) such work, not to exceed 8 semester credits, must be approved in advance by the student's major adviser and a record of the proposed work filed with the Registrar;
 - 2) the work must be completed in the interim between the student's last residence in the College and the next following fall convocation. See Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7 for modification of residency requirements for participants in the inter-institutional study plans.
- b. Students who are scheduled to graduate in September are ranked scholastically with those who graduate at the preceding spring commencement.

Section 4. General Studies Program

- a. Whitman College, through its faculty members acting as advisers, seeks to assist each student in following a course plan which supports the purpose of the College, as stated in the preamble to Chapter II. Each student is required to develop with the

advice and consent of his or her adviser/s, a plan of course work consistent with the guidelines provided below.

- b. The General Studies program is intended to provide:
 - 1) breadth and perspective to allow exposure to the diversity of knowledge,
 - 2) integration to demonstrate the inter-relatedness of knowledge,
 - 3) a community of shared experience to encourage informal continuation of education beyond the classroom, and
 - 4) a context for further study in the many areas appropriate for a well educated person.

- c. The General Studies Program consists of the items listed below.
 - 1) The Core
 - a) Each student shall successfully complete two 4-credit courses in the first year.
 - b) First-year students who wish to defer the Core until the sophomore year must receive permission of the Board of Review.
 - c) Transfer students below the junior standing must complete Core unless, upon appeal, the Board of Review finds that they have passed comparable courses at another institution.

 - 2) Distribution Requirements
 - a) Each student shall successfully complete a minimum of 6 credits in each of the following areas:
 - 1) Social Sciences
 - 2) Humanities
 - 3) Fine Arts
 - 4) Science, including at least one class with a laboratory.

 - b) In addition:
 - 5) One course of three or more credits in Quantitative Analysis.

- 6) Two courses designated as fulfilling the requirements in Alternative Voices.
- c) Specific courses in each of the 6 areas that are appropriate for the distribution requirements shall be approved by the faculty and listed in the current College Catalog.
- d) At an appropriate time during the student's senior year his or her major Department or major committee will be required to certify that he or she has successfully completed his or her approved program.

Section 5. Major Requirement

- a. Every candidate for a bachelor's degree must complete a major program as defined in Chapter II, Section 2.
- b. Election of a major may be made upon enrollment in the College or at any time thereafter, but a choice must be made prior to the date set for preliminary registration for the student's 5th semester.
 - 1) The student selects a major in consultation with his or her pre-major adviser and with the approval of the adviser or advisers responsible for the proposed major study.
 - 2) He or she may, however, later change his or her field of major with the approval of the new major adviser or advisers.
- c. A student may elect more than one major but not without approval of the major advisers concerned. Such students must complete every requirement of each major elected.
- d. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 must be earned in all courses taken by a student in his or her major area in order to be eligible for graduation.
- e. Regardless of whether a student declares a standard, combined, or individually planned major, a minimum of two-thirds of the specific course and credit requirements for the major must be completed in the on-campus program of the College.

Section 6. Senior Assessment in Major

- a. Every candidate for a Bachelor's Degree must, in his or her senior year or subsequently, pass a senior assessment in the field of his or her major.

- 1) Subject to the approval of the faculty and to the satisfaction of the criteria below, each department will decide the format of its senior assessment.
 - 2) A substantial part of the senior assessment shall take the form of an interrogative oral. This shall be conducted by a committee composed of two or more instructors in the major or related fields.
 - 3) If the senior assessment includes a substantial component in addition to the oral, the minimum time for the oral shall be one hour; otherwise, the minimum time for the oral shall be two hours.
 - 4) The times and places of senior assessments shall be set by the department chair(s) and/or program director except that no senior assessments shall take place during the week of final exams unless approved by the Board of Review.
 - 5) Senior assessments, if passed, shall be graded "Passed" or "Passed with Distinction", depending on the quality of the student's performance, and such grades shall be reported to the Registrar on or before the last day of classes and recorded on the student's permanent record.
 - 6) A student who fails to pass a senior assessment may, at the discretion of the student's committee, be given an additional assessment not less than two weeks later. Failing to pass this, he or she may not again present himself or herself for further evaluation until three months have elapsed.
 - 7) The Dean of Students shall be empowered to authorize absences from senior assessments and shall do so only for illness, emergency, or unusually important college-sponsored activities such as national competitions for forensics and varsity athletics.
- b. In the case of an individually planned major, the individually planned major committee shall assume the responsibilities of the major adviser and/or major department in administering senior assessments.

Section 7. Special Provisions for Participants in Inter-Institutional Study Plan Programs

- a. For students who are admitted to one of the combined plan programs (Ch. II, Sec. 6, b), the degree requirements of the College shall be modified to fit the pattern of the specific combined plan.
- b. All combined plan students shall complete during the first three years of college work a minimum of 94 semester credits (93 semester credits for the 3-2 Engineering and Computer Science Program) of which a minimum of 62 credits must be earned on campus at Whitman College.

- c. The student must satisfactorily complete the requirements for the General Studies Program (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 4).
- d. The requirement for the senior assessment is waived.
- e. The Bachelor of Arts degree shall be awarded by Whitman College upon the successful completion of the program requirements as specified in the sections which follow:
 - 1) The Combined Plan in Engineering.
 - a) The recommendation of Whitman College at the end of the student's 3rd year of study guarantees admission to the combined plan school of engineering.
 - b) Grade point and course requirements are specified in the Whitman College Catalog.
 - c) The Whitman College major shall be Mathematics-Physics, Chemistry, 3-2 Mathematics-Computer Science, or 3-2 BBMB as determined by the program of study completed.
 - d) The student shall complete the equivalent of two years of college work at the school of engineering and be awarded a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree by that school to qualify for the award of the Whitman College degree.
 - 2) The Combined Plan in Law.
 - a) Students participating in this program are selected by the Columbia University Law School from those nominated by Whitman College.
 - b) The student must complete a minimum of 75% of the credits required for a standard major by the end of the student's 3rd year at Whitman College, of which no more than 6 may be transfer credits.
 - c) The student must complete a minimum of 12 credits which are appropriate to a Whitman College degree outside the School of Law at Columbia University.
 - d) The program of study for specific courses to be completed at Whitman College and Columbia University requires the approval of the student's major Department. The Department may require courses which are more rigorous than the minimum required; the department must specify if any

additional courses related to or supportive of the major are to be completed at Columbia University.

- e) The student may complete 6 credits of the distribution requirement at the participating school with the approval of the major department.
 - f) The student shall be awarded a J.D. degree by Columbia University to qualify for the award of the Whitman College degree.
- 3) The Combined Plan in Forestry and Environmental Studies.
- a) Students participating in this program are selected by Duke University from those nominated by Whitman College.
 - b) Course requirements to be completed at Whitman College are specified in the College Catalog.
 - c) The Whitman College major shall be Biology or Geology depending on the courses completed at Whitman College.
 - d) The student shall successfully complete a minimum of 60 credits at Duke University and be awarded the appropriate graduate degree to qualify for the award of the Whitman College degree.
- 4) The Combined Plan in International Studies.
- a) Students participating in this program are selected by the Monterey Institute of International Studies from those nominated by Whitman College.
 - b) Course requirements to be completed at Whitman College are specified in the College Catalog.
- 5) The Combined Plan in Oceanography.
- a) Students participating in this program are selected by the University of Washington from those nominated by Whitman College.
 - b) Course requirements to be completed at Whitman College are specified in the College Catalog.
 - c) The Whitman major shall be Biology or Geology depending on courses completed at Whitman College.
 - d) The student shall complete the equivalent of two years of college work at the School of Oceanography and be awarded a Bachelor of Science in

Oceanography degree by that school to qualify for the award of the Whitman College degree.

Section 8. Modification or Waiver of Requirements

By vote of the faculty, the graduation requirements of the College may be modified or waived in individual cases. All petitions for such modification or waiver shall go first to the Board of Review and such petitions shall not be received or considered unless they bear the signature of the student's adviser.

Section 9. Record of Rank in Class and Final Grade Point Average

After the completion of all residence work prior to graduation, each student's rank in class and final grade point average shall be recorded on his or her permanent record.

Section 10. Commencement Exercises

A student who has met the residence requirements and who has successfully completed at least 116 credits toward graduation may participate in commencement, though a degree will not be conferred until all of the requirements for graduation are met.

Section 11. Degrees Awarded in Absentia

A degree shall not be conferred in absentia except by special action of the Board of Review taken in response to a petition showing satisfactory reasons for inability to take the degree in person during a degree conferring ceremony scheduled by the College.

Section 12. Minor Requirement

- a. Minor study programs require 15-20 credits within the particular field or area to be completed with a minimum grade point average of 2.000.
- b. Unless approved by the appropriate departments and/or programs, courses used for minor requirements may not also be applied to requirements in the major or any other minor.
- c. A minimum of three-fifths of a specific course and credit requirements for the minor must be completed in the on-campus program of the College.