

Important Curriculum Changes and Reminders

Updated April 2009

A. LOWER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

1. English Lower Division Requirements (B.A. and B.S. degrees)

a. College of Liberal Arts students earning a B.A. or B.S. degree may satisfy the English composition requirement by taking ENGL 101 and *either* ENGL 102 or LIBA 102. However, LIBA 102 is reserved exclusively for first-year students. In addition, these courses are not sequential. It makes no difference which course the student takes first.

b. ENGL 250 (Applied Writing) does not meet the requirement for a 200-level English literature course. Advanced courses in literature also do not meet this requirement. No exceptions are made.

2. Social Science Lower Division Requirement (B.A. degree only)

Beginning with the fall 2008 semester, College of Liberal Arts students earning a B.A. degree may no longer enroll in JOUR 101 in order to satisfy 3 hours of the social science lower division requirement. If a student is using the 2007-08 or older catalog and passed JOUR 101 prior to the fall 2008 semester, then the student may use it to satisfy 3 hours towards the social science requirement on the graduation application. Be aware that you cannot get satisfy the social science credit with the JOUR 101 course in fall 2008 or later semesters even if you are using an older catalog.

3. Social Science Lower Division Requirement (B.S. degree only)

A recent change in this 12 hour requirement will be effective for Fall 2008 semester. The category has been renamed “Social Science and Humanities” to better reflect the areas of study listed that satisfy this requirement. The second revision was to allow students some flexibility in meeting this 12 hour requirement. The new rule states that students must take 6 hours in one subject and the remaining 6 hours in one or two other subjects. Previously, you had to take 6 hours in one subject and 6 hours in a second subject. Now you can spread the second 6 hours among different subjects if you wish.

4. Unrelated Areas requirement (B.S. degree only)

The category of “unrelated areas” of requirements has been eliminated. Similar to the above change in the social science requirement, this change will be effective for the Fall 2008 semester.

5. Humanities Lower Division Requirement (B.A. degree only)

a. Environmental Studies (ENVS) 101: Humanities and the Environment was approved in the fall 2007 to satisfy the humanities lower division requirement. This new interdisciplinary course draws upon works of literature, anthropology, culture studies, history, literature, and other related fields.

b. The applicable gender studies courses are G St 103, 201, 301, 333. In addition, gender studies courses that are cross-listed with African American studies, classical civilization, English, modern languages, philosophy, or religion courses will satisfy this requirement.

6. Modern or Ancient Language Requirement (B.A. or B.S. degrees)

a. Students should be aware that language training from the Department of Modern Languages or the Department of Classics will fulfill the requirement to pass 6 hours at the 200-level or higher in one language. There is a new language offering in the Department of Modern Languages – Arabic.

b. Please be aware that in some exceptional cases, entering students are able to start their language training at a more advanced level than the 100 or 200-level courses. Advisors should speak with a language coordinator in the Department of Modern Languages or the chair in the Department of Classics.

c. There were several significant changes approved in the Spring 2009 that did not make it into the proof of the Fall 2009 catalog but will be implemented in Fall 2009 nonetheless.

i. With approval from the Department of Modern Languages, students may use languages other than those above to satisfy the language requirement by taking courses through study abroad or at another university. Before, students were limited to those languages taught on our campus to fulfill this requirement.

ii. Speakers of languages other than English may present documentation to the Department of Modern Languages showing that they studied in high school in that language and will thus fulfill the language requirement. Before, foreign students were required to follow the same language requirement as domestic students. While they are not

required to opt out of the language requirement through this type of documentation (i.e. they still may enroll in a third language study or enroll in classes in their native language at or beyond the 300-level), this is not an option.

iii. Online and independent study courses are now allowed to complete the language requirement. There are a couple of cautions for advisors. The successful completion rate on independent study courses is rather low. And, there will be limited online availability for language courses from UM. Students must have prior permission from the dean's office to take online courses from another university while enrolled at UM.

7. Suggested Student Placement in Mathematics Courses.

The Department of Mathematics suggests that students who have an ACT mathematics sub-score of 25 or higher (or the SAT equivalent) should not be placed in MATH 121, but rather take MATH 125, 261, or 267. In addition, students who do not plan to advance to calculus courses may be better served by taking the MATH 115 Elementary Statistics course instead of MATH 121 College Algebra.

8. Natural Science Lower Division Requirement (Regarding Astronomy)

For students who wish to use astronomy courses to satisfy the B.A. in Liberal Arts lower-division natural science requirement: A student may not receive credit for both ASTR 101 and ASTR 103. Similarly, a student may not receive credit for both ASTR 101 and ASTR 104.

B. PROGRAMS OF STUDY IN THE COLLEGE

MINORS

1. A minor in Environmental Studies was approved in the Fall 2008. The Environmental Studies minor consists of ENVS 101, either BISC 104 or BISC 162, and 12 hours of approved electives. The approved electives must include a minimum of three hours in at least two of the three discipline categories: Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. The list of courses in each category is found in the Fall 2009 catalog. Contact Dr. Ann Fisher-Wirth (English) for more information.

2. Approved minors outside of the College for the B.A. degree

There are only a few minors offered from departments outside of the College that are approved for students completing the B.A. degree, including Accountancy, Business Administration, Engineering, and Park and Recreation Management. Beginning with Fall 2009 (although it did not make the Fall 2009 catalog), students in the College of Liberal Arts may also complete the Intelligence and Security Studies minor offered from the School of Applied Sciences. Students must be admitted by competitive application to this minor. Students who have completed or are taking ISS 125 may apply for entry into the minor. The application process will consider the student's GPA, motivation, choice of major, writing skills, and maturity. Not all who apply will be accepted. Contact Dr. Carl Jensen (Legal Studies) for more information.

3. Majors and Minors in the same department.

Except for the B.A. in African American studies, B.A. in international studies, and B.A. in Southern studies, students who complete the B.A. degree in the College of Liberal Arts must complete a minor course of study (or a second major). In a department that offers multiple areas of study, a student may complete the minor course of study (or complete a second major) in the same department as the one in which the student takes his or her major. The one exception is the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

MAJORS

1. A new degree program, the B.A. in Religious Studies is offered by the Department of Philosophy and Religion.

2. Due to student confusion, the name of the B.A. in Liberal Arts has been changed to the B.A. in Liberal Studies.

3. There have been some recent additions to the pre-health offerings. The following information shows the two basic divisions in these fields of study.

- a) Baccalaureate degree programs: cytotechnology, dental hygiene, health informatics and information management, clinical laboratory science, nursing, medical technology, occupational therapy, and radiologic sciences

- b) Graduate degree programs: dentistry, medicine, optometry, physical therapy, veterinary medicine, and occupational therapy

The first place to start with questions about these programs is the pre-health professions advisor, Dr. Jim O'Neal, Academic Support Center. Jackie Certion (Academic Support Center) provides the advising for all pre-nursing students on campus.

C. COURSE PREREQUISITE OR RULE CHANGES THAT AFFECT NONMAJORS

1. Biology course prerequisites.

In a change approved in the spring 2007 semester, Biology courses require a grade of C or better in all prerequisite courses, including those prerequisite courses from other departments. Beginning with the Fall 2009, there is one exception to this rule: the non-majors survey sequences. Students may earn a grade of D in BISC 102 and/or its lab and still enroll in the BISC 104 and/or its lab.

2. Mathematics course prerequisites and rule changes.

No student may enroll in a mathematics course unless he or she has a grade of C or higher in all prerequisite courses. Students who have received credit for MATH 261 or higher may not enroll in MATH 121, 123, or 125.

D. MINIMUM GRADE OF C REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJORS/MINORS

Some majors and/or minors in the College require a minimum grade of C in those department courses used to satisfy graduation requirements for the major or minor. This rule is made effective beginning in a particular semester (indicated below in parenthesis) for all majors and/or minors regardless of when they first enrolled at the University. For example, beginning with the Fall 2006 semester, only POL courses with a grade of C or higher will count towards a student's major in political science, no matter when he or she entered the university.

- African American Studies major and minor (Spring 2005)
- Art major for the B.F.A. degree (Fall 1980)
- Biology major (Fall 2001)
- Gender Studies minor (Fall 2006)
- History major and minor (Fall 2003)
- International Studies major (Fall 2006)
- Journalism major and minor (Fall 2000)
- Liberal Arts major (Fall 2001)
- Mathematics major for the B.A. and B.S. degrees. (Fall 1995)
- Modern Languages major and minor (Fall 2007)
- Music major for the B.A. and B.M. degrees (Fall 2000)
- Philosophy major (Fall 2004)
- Political Science major and minor (Fall 2006)
- Religious Studies major (Spring 2009)
- Theatre Arts major for the B.A. and B.F.A. degrees and the minor (Spring 2001)

E. UNIVERSITY CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students who do not attend the first day of a class may be removed from the class roll. The new policy is as follows:

"Students must attend the first meeting of every course for which they are registered, unless they obtain prior departmental approval. Without such approval, a student who is absent from the first class meeting may be dropped from that class by the dean of the school or college with the responsibility for the course."

It is the student's responsibility to contact the department office prior to the first day of class to request permission to be absent. Each department will decide whether to enforce this policy. Therefore, students must not depend upon the department dropping a class from their schedule if they do not attend the first day.

F. ACADEMIC RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

A reminder of a university-wide regulation: At least 25 percent of the semester credit hours required for an undergraduate degree (31 hours for a 124 hour degree) must be taken in residence. At least 30 semester hours of residence credit must be taken in the College of Liberal Arts for those degrees offered in the College. Hours from courses offered through the College that are taken before and after a student declares the major in the College may be used to satisfy this 30-hour residence requirement.