

Faculty Alliance
2025 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 757780
Fairbanks, AK 99775



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

106E Butrovich Building
(907) 450-8042
ua-sygov-faculty@lists.alaska.edu
alaska.edu/governance/faculty-alliance/

Date: March 19, 2018
To: Paul Layer
VPASA, University of Alaska
From: Lisa Hoferkamp
Chair, University of Alaska Faculty Alliance
Subject: dual-purpose credit

RE: Sharing GER and Major Degree Requirements

Dear VPASA Layer,

Recent discussions among Faculty Alliance (FA) members and UAA, UAF, and UAS Faculty Senate members regarding UA Regulation R10.04.040.C.3 have resulted in support for revision of this regulation. As currently stated, the directive prohibits students from acquiring GER and degree-requirement credit from a single course: "Credit may be counted towards general education or a degree major requirement, but not both,". The FA proposes the following revision to this regulation "C.3. A student shall not use a single course to meet more than one general education category. However, general education courses may also satisfy degree or major requirements." The FA analysis of this change follows. For clarity, use of a single, eligible course to satisfy both a GER and a degree requirement shall be referred to as dual-purpose credit.

The FA believes that this regulation restricting dual-purpose credit unnecessarily limits student opportunities and the revision, by allowing students to earn credit from an eligible course that may be applied towards general education requirements and towards fulfilment of specific degree program requirements, will expedite their path to degree completion, simplify explanations of course completion (i.e. advising), and render tools like Degreeworks more manageable.

Revision of UA Regulation R10.04.040.C.3 will also eliminate unnecessary ambiguity associated with UA Regulation R10.04.030 wherein dual-purpose credit is explicitly allowed for all other degree requirements unless specifically forbidden. Regulation R10.04.030 states that, "Unless otherwise specified in regulation or by the appropriate academic unit, a course may be used more than once for fulfilling degree, certificate, major, and minor requirements". To exclude GERs from the pool of courses eligible for dual-purpose credit limits the scope of courses a student may complete while pursuing a degree and deters that student from engaging in a broad spectrum

of academic courses. Allowing dual-purpose credit may ultimately lead to increased commitments to disciplinary minors and may facilitate the institutionalization of Alaska Native Studies GERs, especially for programs with limited options for additional credit requirements.

In cases where dual-purpose credit has associated special circumstances, program descriptions will be used to provide specific instructions. When dual-purpose credit is not allowed, as determined by faculty at the program level, limits will be enumerated in degree descriptions. Already existing dual-purpose credit constraints for given courses suggests that this practice is not burdensome to students. At UAA, those courses ineligible for dual-purpose credit are explicitly marked, usually with an asterisk and the notation "Must be taken in addition to General Education Requirements." (e.g., UAA BS Computer Science). Some UAF degree programs require dual-purpose credit wherein specific GERs are mandated with the phrase: "As part of the general education requirements, complete:" followed by a list of required courses (e.g., a specific math course for UAF BBA business administration, a math course for BS computer science, math and sciences courses for BS chemistry, several humanities requirements for BA elementary education, several requirements for BA social work, several requirements for BS wildlife biology, and many other degrees). Some UAS degrees are designed similarly to UAF stipulating "Complete all General Education Requirements which must include the following:" followed by a list of required courses (e.g., UAS BS Biology, BA Elementary Education) that shall count for satisfaction of major and GER requirements.

The proposed revision to UA Regulation R10.04.040.C.3 removes an unnecessary restriction that complicates degree requirement descriptions in the catalog, resulting in a more streamlined and less confusing experience for UA students. The FA encourages the Academic Council to support this action.

Respectfully,

Lisa Hoferkamp
UA Faculty Alliance Chair

Current regulation (strikethrough) with proposed revision:

R10.04.030 C. Assumptions Regarding General Education Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees

~~3. Credit may be counted towards general education or a degree major requirement, but not both.~~

A student shall not use a single course to meet more than one general education category.

However, general education courses may also satisfy degree or major requirements.