

General University Degree Requirements

Summary

The baccalaureate degrees have several requirements students must meet in order to earn a degree from Columbus State University.

Purpose

This document presents the general criteria students must meet to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Policy

The following general requirements are applicable for all programs leading to an undergraduate degree:

- **Credit Hour Requirements** - A minimum of 123 semester credit hours for a baccalaureate degree or 63 semester credit hours for an associate degree. Baccalaureate degrees require 39 semester hours of upper division coursework (numbered 3000 or above).
- **Grade Point Average Requirements** - A minimum Columbus State University degree progress grade point average of 2.0 and a minimum combined Columbus State University and transfer college degree progress grade point average of 2.0.
- **General Education Requirements** - for the baccalaureate degree, completion of Core Areas A through F. Transfer students who have completed any core area (Areas A-F) at another University System of Georgia institution will have completed the same core area at CSU, so long as the student's major remains the same. Students who have received an associate degree from another University System of Georgia institution will have satisfied the total core at CSU (Areas A-F), so long as the student's major remains the same.
- **Legislative Requirements**- An act of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia requires that all candidates for degrees possess and demonstrate knowledge of U.S. History, Georgia History, U.S. Constitution, and Georgia Constitution. The following courses, when taken at Columbus State University, will satisfy the requirements.
 - U.S. History Requirement - HIST 2111 or HIST 2112
 - Georgia History Requirement - HIST 2111 or HIST 2112 or HIST 3105
 - U.S. Constitution Requirement - POLS 1101
 - Georgia Constitution Requirement - POLS 1101 or POLS 2201

Note: Transfer credit for history and government courses may not satisfy the legislative requirements. Students who transfer credit that does not satisfy these requirements may take a proficiency examination or the courses listed above.

- **Residency Requirements:**
 - **Baccalaureate** - A minimum of 25% of credit hours must be earned at Columbus State University, of which 20 hours must be obtained at in the upper division level in the major. CSU online courses can be used to meet the residency requirement.
 - **Associate** - A minimum of 25% of credit hours must be earned at Columbus State University in order to meet the residency requirement for an Associate degree. CSU online courses can be used to meet the residency requirement.
- **Wellness Requirement-** For all degree programs, completion of wellness course requirements: PHED 1205 and one PEDS activity course. Transfer students who have satisfied an established wellness requirement at another University System of Georgia institution will have satisfied the wellness requirement at CSU. Courses taken at other institutions for partial completion of the wellness requirement will be substituted for equivalent CSU courses.
 - Wellness Exemptions:
 - Students with at least 12 consecutive months of active military service.
 - Students 40 years of age or older. (Older students may take related courses, but must have medical clearance to participate in courses requiring moderate-intensity exercise).
 - Students with severe physical disabilities. (Medical verification should be obtained through the CSU Office of Disability Services).
- **Information Literacy Requirement** - For all undergraduate degree programs, demonstration of proficiency in Information Literacy is required.
 - **Information Literacy** is a set of abilities enabling individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate synthesize, evaluate, and effectively use the needed information. Students are expected to satisfy the following proficiencies:
 - The student should be able to determine the nature and extent of the information needed
 - The student should be able to access needed information effectively and efficiently
 - The student should be able to evaluate information and its sources critically and incorporate selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system
 - The student should be able, individually or as a member of a

- group, to use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
 - The student should understand many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and be able to access and use information ethically and legally
- ENGL 1102, when taken at Columbus State University, will satisfy the Information Literacy requirement
 - Transfer students who have taken ENGL 1102 elsewhere but have not satisfied the Information Literacy requirement, must either successfully complete the Information Literacy Test administered by the Testing Center
 - **-OR-**
 - enroll in and successfully complete LIBR 1105 (with a grade of D or better)
- Information Literacy test policy: Students may take the test twice. If the student fails the test for a second time, remediation will be required. Students will be allowed to take the test for a 3rd time after remediation. Upon failing the test for a 3rd time, the student will be required to take the appropriate course.
- **Bachelor of Arts Language Requirement** - For the BA, the demonstration of proficiency in a foreign language by the satisfactory completion in a foreign language through at least the 2001 course or the equivalent. Students whose secondary education was conducted in a language other than English may be awarded up to nine semester hours of foreign language credit toward a BA degree. Students who think they may qualify for this credit should contact the chair of the Department of Modern & Classical Languages.

Additional Degree Policy

In order for a student to earn both an associate and baccalaureate degrees in the same discipline, all requirements for the associate degree must be satisfied at least two semesters before requirements for the baccalaureate degree are satisfied. Otherwise, only the baccalaureate degree will be awarded. Further, any student graduating from Columbus State University with a baccalaureate degree cannot concurrently receive an Associate of Science degree in general studies.

To earn an additional baccalaureate degree in a significantly different discipline (as determined by the dean of the college offering the degree sought), students must meet the following requirements:

- Have earned a baccalaureate degree at Columbus State University or at another accredited institution.
- Meet all major program requirements for the degree sought with a minimum of 36

semester hours of work taken at Columbus State University, of which 30 semester hours must be at the upper-division level, and a minimum degree progress grade point average of 2.0.

- Satisfy the U.S. and Georgia history and constitutions requirements if the prior degree is not from a University System of Georgia institution. Refer to General University Requirements for ways to satisfy these requirements.
- Satisfy Information Literacy Requirements.

To earn an additional associate degree in a significantly different discipline (as determined by the dean of the college offering the degree sought), students must meet the following requirements:

- Have earned an associate degree at Columbus State University or at another accredited institution.
- Meet all program requirements for the degree sought with a minimum of 21 semester credit hours of additional work in residence at Columbus State University and a minimum degree progress grade point average of 2.0.
- Satisfy the U.S. and Georgia history and constitutions requirements if the prior degree is not from a University System of Georgia institution. Refer to General University Requirements for ways to satisfy these requirements.

Students seeking two baccalaureate degrees or two associate degrees simultaneously must meet the above requirements for the additional degree. If the two disciplines are not significantly different, the student may seek a double major. Contact the Office of the Registrar for further information on double degrees and double majors.

Related USG Policy

3.8 Degrees

Last Update

5/9/17

Responsible Authority

Provost Office and the University Curriculum Committee Chair