

Completion of Liberal Studies Foundation Courses

Proposed Policy

All undergraduate degree-seeking students are expected to fulfill the university's Liberal Studies Foundation Requirements in English and mathematics by the time they have accumulated 60 hours of credit, including coursework completed at NAU and coursework accepted for transfer to NAU.

Mathematics: Any student who has more than 60 hours of credit and has not fulfilled the Mathematics Foundation requirement must enroll in a course that fulfills the requirement or an appropriate prerequisite course and continue to do so every semester until the mathematics requirement is met. If there are scheduling conflicts detrimental to the student's academic progress, enrollment in the appropriate mathematics course may be deferred to the subsequent semester.

English: Any student who has more than 60 hours of credit and has not fulfilled the English Foundation requirement must enroll in an English course that fulfills the requirement or an appropriate prerequisite course and continue to do so every semester until the requirement is met. If there are scheduling conflicts detrimental to the student's academic progress, enrollment in the appropriate English course may be deferred to the subsequent semester.

New Freshmen Students

Before new freshmen students can register for the first time at NAU, they must determine what courses to take to complete the university mathematics and English foundation requirements. Students are then expected to enroll immediately in these courses and continue to do so until the requirements are met.

Transfer Students

Transfer students from public Arizona community colleges, Tribal colleges or universities can determine the acceptability of their composition and mathematics courses by referring to the *Course Applicability System* in consultation with an academic advisor. Composition and mathematics courses transferred from out-of-state institutions must be evaluated according to university policies for its acceptability for meeting these requirements. Transfer students who have not completed the liberal studies foundation courses are expected to enroll promptly in these courses and continue to do so until the requirements are met. If there are scheduling conflicts detrimental to the student's academic progress, enrollment in the appropriate English and/or mathematics course may be deferred to the subsequent semester.

Rationale for the proposed policy: The purpose of the mathematics and English requirements is to provide a foundation for students' success in their other coursework. Students who delay completion of these requirements put themselves at a disadvantage in their other coursework that may presume a certain minimum level of writing and quantitative reasoning skills that foundation courses are meant to impart. In addition, students who put off taking foundation courses because they don't like English or "aren't good at" mathematics may find it more difficult to complete the courses as they have not "practiced" the skills since high school. In addition it is our experience that some students now find themselves NAU seniors hoping to graduate, who "have just got to" get a passing grade in foundational English or mathematics – putting undue pressure on the instructors of these courses.

Approved: Academic Standards Committee, October 26, 2007

Approved: Faculty Senate, December 10, 2007

Approved: Liz Grobsmith Provost, January 14, 2008