

Proposed Changes to Academic Regulations to Accommodate “90-Credit Bachelor’s”  
Degrees at WSU – As Approved by the Academic Affairs Committee

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**Proposal #1:** Changes to Academic Regulation 114, Section e, part 4 and part 5-Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees. (Full text is available here: <https://registrar.wsu.edu/academic-regulations/>)

*Current language:*

AR 114 e. To complete a baccalaureate degree, students shall:

- 1) Earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or better in graded course work.
- 2) Earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or better in graded course work in the major.
- 3) Complete the departmental and college requirements for an active baccalaureate degree. Baccalaureate degrees remain active for the purpose of degree completion for eight years following the last inclusion in the WSU catalog.
- 4) Earn a minimum of 120 semester hours of credit. At least 30 must be WSU credits; see Rule 6.
- 5) Earn a minimum of 40 semester hours of credit in 300-400-level courses; 500-level courses will count toward the 300-400-level requirement, but an undergraduate may not be required to complete a 500-level course as a requirement for the baccalaureate degree.
- 6) Complete the University Common Requirements (UCOREs) for graduation.
- 7) Complete the university writing requirements, including two Writing in the Major courses and the Writing Portfolio.

*Discussion synopsis from AAC:*

AR 114, Section e, part 4 states that students must earn a minimum of 120 semester hours of credit, and at least 30 must be WSU hours. AAC agreed that students should be held to the standard of earning at least 30 semester credits at WSU to earn a WSU degree, regardless of whether it was a 90-Credit or a 120-Credit bachelor’s degree. To accommodate 90-Credit bachelor’s Degrees in this AR, it is easiest to add a new part 5 to Academic Regulation 114, section e to address the minimum credit requirements for a 90-Credit bachelor’s degree. AAC also recommends the incorporation of a new WSU Catalog section that clearly outlines the

similarities and differences between 90-Credit bachelor's degrees and 120-Credit bachelor's degrees, breaking the latter down into the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree types.

AR 114, Section e, part 5. Academic Affairs discussed this Academic Regulation and in the end the committee decided that there should be no difference in the number of upper division courses required for a 90-Credit bachelor's degree and a 120-Credit bachelor's degree. This will ensure that all bachelor's degrees offered at WSU have the same level of rigor within the major. Also, part 5 and everything below it will need to be renumbered accommodate the changes described above in part 4.

*Proposed change (redline):*

AR 114 e. To complete a baccalaureate degree, students shall:

- 1) Earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or better in graded course work.
- 2) Earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or better in graded course work in the major.
- 3) Complete the departmental and college requirements for an active baccalaureate degree. Baccalaureate degrees remain active for the purpose of degree completion for eight years following the last inclusion in the WSU catalog.
- 4) Earn a minimum of 120 semester hours of credit for a 120-Credit bachelor's degree (Insert link to new catalog section). At least 30 must be WSU credits; see Academic Regulation Rule-6 114.
- 5) Earn a minimum of 90 semester hours of credit for a 90-Credit bachelor's Degree (Insert link to new catalog section). At least 30 must be WSU credits; see Academic Regulation Rule-6 114.
- 6) For either a 90-Credit or a 120-Credit bachelor's degree, eEarn a minimum of 40 semester hours of credit in 300-400-level courses; 500-level courses will count toward the 300-400-level requirement, but an undergraduate may not be required to complete a 500-level course as a requirement for the baccalaureate degree.
- 7) Complete the University Common Requirements (UCOREs) for graduation.
- 8) Complete the university writing requirements, including two Writing in the Major courses and the Writing Portfolio.

*Proposed change (Clean copy):*

AR 114 e. To complete a baccalaureate degree, students shall:

- 1) Earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or better in graded course work.
- 2) Earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or better in graded course work in the major.

- 3) Complete the departmental and college requirements for an active baccalaureate degree. Baccalaureate degrees remain active for the purpose of degree completion for eight years following the last inclusion in the WSU catalog.
- 4) Earn a minimum of 120 semester hours of credit for a 120-Credit bachelor's degree (Insert link to new catalog section). At least 30 must be WSU credits; see Academic Regulation 114.
- 5) Earn a minimum of 90 semester hours of credit for a 90-Credit bachelor's Degree (Insert link to new catalog section). At least 30 must be WSU credits; see Academic Regulation 114.
- 6) For either a 90-Credit or a 120-Credit bachelor's degree, earn a minimum of 40 semester hours of credit in 300-400-level courses; 500-level courses will count toward the 300-400-level requirement, but an undergraduate may not be required to complete a 500-level course as a requirement for the baccalaureate degree.
- 7) Complete the University Common Requirements (UCOREs) for graduation.
- 8) Complete the university writing requirements, including two Writing in the Major courses and the Writing Portfolio.

### **New Catalog Section**

Proposed to put this on page 36 of the current WSU Catalog (available here: <https://registrar.wsu.edu/media/j11p1nao/current-wsu-catalog.pdf>), just before the College-level inventory of available undergraduate degree programs. The Proposed text is below.

## **Understanding the 90-Credit Bachelor (90CB), Bachelor of Arts (BA), and Bachelor of Science (BS) Degrees**

### **Overview**

A 90CB degree is a shorter duration bachelor's degree that is completed in as little as three years. The BA and BS degrees are 120-Credit, four-year undergraduate degrees. All three degree types are offered across a wide range of disciplines. They share foundational academic structures but differ in curricular focus, flexibility, and career preparation.

### **Similarities**

- **General Education Requirements:** All three degrees require completion of the UCORE General education requirements.
- **Major Declaration:** Students in all three degrees must declare a major and fulfill its specific requirements.
- **Career and Graduate School Access:** All three degrees can lead to graduate study or professional careers, depending on the major and a student's future goal

## Differences

<b>Feature</b>	<b>90-Credit Bachelor (90CB)</b>	<b>Bachelor of Arts (BA)</b>	<b>Bachelor of Science (BS)</b>
<b>Semester Credit Hours for Graduation</b>	Require between 90-119 semester credit hours	Require 120 or more semester credit hours	Require 120 or more semester credit hours
<b>Curricular Focus</b>	Narrowly specialized training and education	Broad liberal arts training and education	Specialized, technical, and scientific training and education
<b>Elective Flexibility</b>	Minimal or no electives, mostly UCORE and major-specific courses	More electives and interdisciplinary options	Fewer electives, more major-specific courses
<b>Math &amp; Science Emphasis</b>	Depends on the major field of study	Usually less intensive	More intensive, often includes lab work
<b>Common Fields</b>	Any area	Humanities, social sciences, arts, languages, education	STEM fields, business, health sciences