Statement of Institutional Responsibility to Current Students When an Academic Program or Degree is Discontinued

Current Language (Faculty Senate 3/31/83) --

As a general rule, undergraduate students who are certified majors or graduate degree candidates can assume that a degree will be granted if they maintain continuous enrollment and meet all requirements as listed in Academic Regulations, Rules 114-118. However, because of serious reductions in financial support, loss of faculty, or for other significant reasons, the university may, from time to time, find it necessary to discontinue a degree program. When this occurs, further admission into the degree program will be frozen effective with the official action dropping the degree, and every effort will be made to allow currently enrolled majors and graduate degree candidates to complete their degrees within a reasonable period of time. To facilitate this process, department and program chairs (or the appropriate dean) have the obligation to provide for the individual needs of these students, e.g., (1) students may be encouraged to complete their requirements in similar or related degree tracks; (2) although General Education Requirements (GERs) and the minimum total hours for the degree may never be waived, the student's major department/program may waive or substitute departmental degree requirements (approval of the Graduate School required for graduate students); (3) undergraduate students may be allowed to complete remaining requirements at another institution under Academic Regulations, rule 114(a). Graduate students may be allowed to take courses or conduct research at another institution when approved by the student’s graduate committee and the Graduate School. In all cases, all financial obligations are the responsibility of the individual student involved, except as otherwise noted in the Washington State University Catalog or the Graduate Studies Bulletin.

Proposed Language --

Undergraduate students who are certified majors, graduate students accepted to degree candidacy, and matriculated professional students can expect that a degree will be granted if they maintain continuous enrollment and meet all requirements as listed in Academic Regulations 110-118. However, because of serious reductions in financial support, loss of faculty, or for other significant reasons, the university may find it necessary to discontinue a degree program. When a degree program is discontinued, further certification into the degree program will cease for undergraduate programs with the effective date of the undergraduate degree’s discontinuation; further matriculation will cease for professional programs with the effective date of the professional degree’s discontinuation; and for graduate degree programs, admissions will be suspended with the filing for discontinuation, and terminated with the effective date of the discontinuation. Every effort will be made to allow currently enrolled and continuously enrolled students as defined
above to complete their degrees within a reasonable period of time, typically no longer than four years.

Academic program leadership of the college and campus has the obligation to provide for individual needs of these students, e.g., (1) students may be encouraged to complete their requirements in similar or related degree programs; (2) although general education requirements (UCORE) and the minimum total hours for the degree may not be waived, the student’s major department/program may waive or substitute departmental degree requirements (approval of the Graduate School required for graduate students); (3) undergraduate and professional students may be allowed to complete remaining requirements at another institution under Academic Regulation 114(d)4. Graduate students may be allowed to take courses or conduct research at another institution when approved by the student’s graduate committee and the Graduate School. In all cases, all financial obligations are the responsibility of the individual student involved, except as otherwise noted in the Washington State University Catalog or the Graduate Studies Policies and Procedures Manual.

Faculty Senate 3/31/83; 1996; 2017

Related Policies:

NWCCU, Teach-Out Plans and Teach-Out Agreements Policy (2017)

EPPM, Discontinuation of a Degree Program (under revision)

Memorandum of Understanding between the Provost and the Faculty Senate regarding the Creation, Movement, Renaming or Elimination of Departments and Colleges (2014)

WSU Executive Policy 29: Policies, Responsibilities, and Authorities for the Operation of Multi-Campus Academic Programs