

COURSES

COURSE REQUISITES

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Requisites represent the academic preparation required to be successful in a course. They are enforced via the enrollment system, meaning a student who attempts to enroll in a course but lacks the requisite preparation will be prevented from enrolling in the course until the requisite has been met.

It is assumed that courses in progress at the time of enrollment will be completed successfully and thus fulfill a course requisite. Course administrators/departments may check the completion of these courses and may drop enrolled students who failed or dropped a requisite course and notify them accordingly.

There are occasions when a student may have the necessary preparation to be successful in a course, but this preparation is not easily identifiable in their student record. An example would be earned transfer credit that did not equate to a UW-Madison course that meets the spirit of the required course. You may ask the course instructor for permission to enroll in a course for which you do not meet the enforced requisite. Instructor permission will override any restrictions on enrollment the class might have.

WAYS TO FULFILL REQUISITES:

- UW-Madison Courses (p. 1)
- Testing Scores (p. 1)
- Transfer Equivalencies (p. 1)
- General Education (p. 2)
- Limitations on Enrollment/Audience (p. 2)
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UW-MADISON COURSES

Courses identified in requisites list the subject(s) and catalog number (example: MATH 221). If a course is cross-listed, you will meet the requisite regardless of the subject you enrolled, with one exception (see minimum credits in a subject) (p. 1). For example, ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 101 is the same course, so requisites recognize both Zoology and Biology as fulfilling the requirement; it does not matter which course you enrolled in.

Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment means being enrolled in a course in the same term as the requisite course. There are three ways these can be written:

1. You may either have completed the requisite course in a prior term or be currently enrolled in it. (example: *Course A*, or *concurrent enrollment*). Example: PLANTSCI 335
2. You must be enrolled in the listed courses during the same term, every time the courses are offered (example: *Course A* requisite: *Concurrent enrollment in Course B*; *Course B* requisite: *Concurrent enrollment in Course A*). You will have to enroll in all courses at the same time otherwise

you will not meet the requisite. Example: NURSING 726 & NURSING 728

3. One course requires concurrent enrollment but the other course does not. For example, if you enroll in a *Course A* with a requisite stating "*Concurrent enrollment in Course B*", but *Course B* does not require you to be enrolled in *Course A*. In this situation, you must enroll in *Course B* first, then go back in and enroll in *Course A*. Example: MUS PERF 201 & MUS PERF 251

Minimum Credits in a Subject

Requisites may specify a certain number of credits in any given subject (example: *3 credits in HISTORY*). This means you must have taken at least 3 credits in the HISTORY course array without specifying an individual course. If you take a course cross-listed with HISTORY, but do not enroll in HISTORY, you will not meet the requisite. Example: HISTORY 200

Grades

In very limited situations, a minimum grade may be included associated with a requisite course (example: *a grade of C in Course A*). If you are a transfer student, you may need individual permission from the instructor to enroll in courses with this type of requisite. Example: NUTR SCI 431

TESTING SCORES

Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

These exam scores are converted into UW-Madison credit via equivalent courses. They do not display publicly in requisites. Due to the nature of the vast array of subject material there isn't always a direct equivalent (exact match from the exam to a UW-Madison course), thus credit will show up on your record as a transfer equivalent (denoted by SUBJECT X##, example GEN ELCT X12). See the list of exams and their equivalent UW-Madison courses in the Placement and Credit by Exam (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#placementandcreditbyexamtext>) section of Guide.

UW-System/UW-Madison Placement Exam Scores and Departmental Placement Exams

The UW-System and UW-Madison provide placement exams in English, English as a Second Language (ESL), French, German, Math, Spanish and have direct equivalents to UW-Madison courses. Departments may also provide placement exams in other subject matter where a student may have acquired knowledge, skills, or competencies. Requisites use placement exam scores and use the language "*or placement into [course]*." Find more information about these exams and subsequent placement into UW-Madison courses in the Placement and Credit by Exam (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#placementandcreditbyexamtext>) section of Guide. Example: FRENCH 102

TRANSFER EQUIVALENCIES

If you are transferring to UW-Madison, their previous coursework will be converted to UW-Madison credit/courses. In most cases, you will see the equivalent UW-Madison course on your transcript, which can be used just like the courses above (p. 1). If there is not a direct equivalent (exact match from your previous institution to a UW-Madison course), you will receive credit in any given subject as a

transfer equivalent (denoted by SUBJECT X##, example GEN ELCT X12).

In some situations, you may have acquired subject matter knowledge, but did not complete all the learning outcomes associated with UW-Madison general education attributes or designations. Transfer equivalency courses used in this situation provide a transfer credit equivalent to course content without the general education requirement fulfillment. These are included in requisites behind the scenes.

When requisites include a minimum letter grade, the transfer equivalency grade will factor in the requisite as a 2.000 GPA, regardless your grade from the previous institution.

List of standard UW-Madison equivalencies without general education attributes/designations

- **BIO SCI X52:** Included in requisites where BIOLOGY/ BOTANY/ZOOLOGY 152 is used. This is the transfer equivalency for the bioscience content without fulfilling the Communications B requirement.
- **PSYCH X02:** Include in requisites where PSYCH 225 is used. This is the transfer equivalency without fulfilling the Communications B requirement.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Some courses utilize the satisfaction of a specific general education requirement as a requisite. These are written as:

- *Satisfied Communications A requirement*
 - Example: COM ARTS 262
- *Satisfied Quantitative Reasoning (QR) A requirement*
 - Example: C&E SOC/SOC 360
- *Satisfied Quantitative Reasoning (QR) B requirement*

To see more about general education requirements, see the Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) in Guide.

LIMITATIONS ON ENROLLMENT/AUDIENCE

Some courses are designed for a specific audience. Requisites limit who can enroll in these courses.

Significant content overlap

When a course covers a significant portion of another course, a requisite will prevent you from earning credit in courses that are vastly similar. These requisites include statements such as "*Not open to students with credit in [Course A]*", which will prevent you from enrolling in a course where you already have mastered the subject matter. Example: CHEM 327

Honors

Courses may limit enrollment to students only in honors programs. Requisites for these courses will be written as:

- *Declared in an honors program* (this means any honors in the major, college honors, or honors research) Example: POLI SCI 182
- *Declared in [school or college] honors program* (this means any honors program within a specific school or college) Example: INTER-AG 288

- *Declared in [degree/major/program] honors in the major* (this means to a single, specific honors program)

Limiting by program

Courses can be designed for specific programs and will have requisites that specify who can enroll. You must be declared in one of these programs to enroll. Requisites will be written as:

- *Declared in [degree/major/program]* Example: KINES 300
- *Declared in [major/program] graduate program* Example: CHEM/BIOCHEM 704
- *Declared in Capstone Certificate in [program]* Example: M E 718
- *Classified as Pre-[degree/major/program name]* Example: CURRIC 319

CLASS STANDING

Class standing is based on the number of credits you have earned, credits in progress at time of enrollment, and your academic career (undergraduate, graduate, pharmacy, medical, veterinary, law, or special).

Requisites using standing can be written in a variety of ways, depending on the audience. If the requisite is *Sophomore standing*, this includes sophomore, junior, senior, graduate/professional, or special career students. If the requisite is *Sophomore standing only*, only undergraduate students with 24-53 credits may enroll in the course.

Credits and Class Standing

- 0-23 credits: Freshman
- 24-53 credits: Sophomore
- 54-85 credits: Junior
- 86+ credits: Senior

Limits based on course catalog number

- Courses numbered 100-299 are open to undergraduates only. Graduate students may enroll, but the credits will not be reflected on their student record.
- Courses numbered 300-699 are open to undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Courses numbered 700 and above are open only to graduate/professional students.

CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR

Some courses may only enroll when you have consent of instructor. These courses usually are independent study, directed study, etc. or courses that require auditions, permission the first time, or other unique situations that are subjective. This is written as "Consent of Instructor." Example: DANCE 159