

2017-18 GAAC Adopted Draft Minutes - November 3, 2017

Gruening 718 - 1:00-2:00

https://hangouts.google.com/hangouts/_/alaska.edu/gaac

Attending: Asiqtuq Topkok, John Elliott, Roman Makarevich, Samara Taber, Jen Schell, Holly McDonald, Mike Daku, Emily Perryman, Sean McGee, Anne Beaudreau, Robin Shoaps, Shelly Baumann, Ghosh Tathagata, Falk Huettmann, Cheryl Barnes

- I. Adopted agenda
- II. Safety minute
- III. Adopted [minutes from 10/13/2017](#)
- IV. The Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee (GAAC) had been asked by a proposer to attend the GAAC meeting when their proposal was up for consideration. The GAAC Committee participated in a poll asked by Asiqtuq utilizing Google Forms, with mixed results. Members discussed the possibility of non-committee members attending. The consensus was applicants may attend by GAAC's invitation only, and reviewers will be consistent communicating with applicants allowing an opportunity to arrange a reviewers and applicants face-to-face (or equivalent) meeting.
- V. GAAC members reviewed Motion 17-2 and voted it down, noting the discrepancies are immaterial.
 - A. Shelly and Holly offered to work on verbiage adapted from the undergraduate portion of the 2017-18 UAF Catalog to apply in the graduate portion of the catalog. This is a change, so this will become a possible motion from GAAC, once it is reviewed and edited by all GAAC members and voted.
- VI. Updates from the graduate school
 - A. GAAC is currently reviewing a possible motion for consideration: [Catalog years and time limits](#). GAAC members will review and edit it between now and the next meeting.
 - B. Upcoming: Advancement wording clarification
- VII. Updates from Emily: November 3 is the Courseleaf deadline for this academic year.
- VIII. GAAC reviewed current [assignments](#) and assigned updated applications. ART/COJO 694 - History of Photography was passed.
- IX. Adjourned. The next meeting will be November 17, 2017 at 1:00 in the Runcorn Room.

Motion 17-2

Double-Counting Courses for Degree Requirements

Double-Counting Courses for Degree Requirements

Potential Faculty Alliance Motion

Faculty Alliance requests the deletion of [UA Regulation R10.04.040.C.3](#), "Credit may be counted towards general education or a degree major requirement, but not both."

Rationale

BOR Regulation R10.04.030 explicitly allows courses to be reused for all other requirements:

[R10.04.030](#). Credit Hour Requirements for Degree and Certificate Programs.
Unless otherwise specified in regulation or by the appropriate academic unit, a course may be used more than once for fulfilling degree, certificate, major, and minor requirements.

Allowing students to reuse GER courses simplifies their path to a degree, simplifies advising, and makes student and advisor tools like Degreeworks easier to understand and maintain.

For transfer students, or students with an existing associate's degree, GER requirements may be waived; but it is not clear if this regulation prevents the reuse of the underlying courses.

Background

Some UAA degrees use an asterisk to indicate "Must be taken in addition to General Education Requirements." (e.g., [UAA BS Computer Science](#)). That is, at UAA courses where reuse is not allowed are explicitly marked.

Many UAF degrees require a limited form of double-counting via the strange phrase:

"As part of the general education requirements, complete:"

This is followed by a list of required courses (e.g., [UAF BBA business administration](#) for a math course, [BS computer science](#) for a math course, [BS chemistry](#) for math and science courses, [BA elementary education](#) for several humanities requirements, [BA social work](#) for several requirements, [BS wildlife biology](#) for several requirements, and many other degrees). That is, at UAF courses where reuse is required are explicitly marked.

Some UAS degrees use the phrase:

"Complete all General Education Requirements which must include the following:"

This is again followed by a list of required courses (e.g., [UAS BS Biology](#)).

UAF-specific Bachelor's / Graduate Reuse Regulation

UAF's catalog includes this strange regulation on reusing courses for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. The hypothetical phrase "Courses applied to a bachelor's can't be applied to a graduate degree" is strongly implied, but not actually stated (here, or anywhere I can find).

RESERVING COURSES FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Seniors who have only a few remaining requirements for a bachelor's degree may take courses at the 400 or 600 graduate course level and have them reserved for an advanced degree. *Courses reserved for use toward a graduate program cannot also be counted toward requirements for your bachelor's degree.* Unless otherwise notified in writing that the courses are to be used toward the undergraduate program, 600-level graduate courses will automatically be reserved for the advanced degree. To reserve one or more courses, you must be in your final year of an undergraduate program. Submit a written request to the Office of Admissions and the Registrar during the first four weeks of the semester. The request should identify which semester courses you want reserved for graduate study and not counted toward your bachelor's degree. (Reserving courses does not, however, assure that a graduate advisory committee will accept them as part of your eventual graduate program.)

The phrase in italics is particularly opaque, because if you do not reserve a course, I think R10.04.030 already allows the course to be counted toward **both** the bachelor's and the master's (unless the graduate advisory committee wants the student to take something different).

	Counts toward Bachelor's?	Counts toward Master's?
Do not reserve course	Yes (normal course)	Yes? (R10.04.030)
Reserve course	No (this policy)	Yes (this policy)

Disallowing course reuse results in bizarre advising trapdoor problems, where Degreeworks in April of your senior year says you need only 6 more courses for a Master's; but then in May after the courses are "consumed" by your Bachelor's graduation, you suddenly need 12 more courses for the Master's. Students see this as a bait-and-switch.

General Arguments about Course Reuse

Arguments for allowing reuse:

- It helps students get more degrees faster.
- It makes advising simpler, and tools for advising (e.g., Degreeworks) simpler to build and understand.
- It lets departments specify exactly which courses they want their students to take.
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Arguments against allowing reuse:

- More coursework means students get a broader exposure to different ideas.
- Students could be perceived as "gaming the system".
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