

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Catalog of Entry

The *Undergraduate Catalog* in effect when a student first enrolls at the university or any one subsequent catalog will be the guide to graduation requirements, provided the student is in continuous attendance and does not change majors.

When a student changes majors, the guide to graduation requirements will be the catalog in effect at the time of change or any one subsequent catalog. Exceptions to this rule include the requirements for the minor and general education requirements. Unless the minor is specified by the new major, a student who has been in continuous enrollment and changes majors can fulfill the requirements for a minor by using the criteria in effect in either the catalog of entry or the catalog in effect at the time of the change in major. See the section on General Education Requirements for the relevant policy on general education.

Readmitted students will use the catalog in effect at their last readmission or any one subsequent catalog as the guide to graduation requirements. Any exceptions to requirements must be approved by the student's department chair and/or college dean. The University reserves the right to change course offerings and academic requirements.

Candidacy for a Degree

To be eligible for candidacy for any degree, students must fulfill the following three requirements:

Application

You must file a Request for Graduation Evaluation form with the dean of your college after the completion of 40 semester hours for the associate and 100 semester hours for the baccalaureate degree.

An Application for Graduation form must be filed by the deadline indicated in the University Academic Calendar. The application is available on the student's YSU Portal.

If the student does not graduate for the term which the application has been filed, the student must reapply. The student must fulfill the University-wide, college, and departmental requirements as well as the minimum credit hours.

Residency

The last 20 semester hours leading to an associate degree and the last 30 semester hours leading to a baccalaureate degree must be completed at Youngstown State University. (In the pre-forestry, pre-law, and pre-medical curricula, however, which allow the student to earn final credit hours in absentia, the last 30 semester hours prior to the period of absence must be spent at Youngstown State University.) A minimum of 16 semester hours in the concentration area for the associate degree, and a minimum of 16 hours of credits in the major in the baccalaureate degree, must be earned in residence. A minimum of 21 semester hours of upper-division credit for the baccalaureate degree must be earned in residence. Exceptions must be approved by the Office of the Provost. Additional requirements may be specified by individual colleges.

Grades

The cumulative point average must be at least 2.00 (see The Point Average and Scholastic Standing) at the time candidacy is approved and at the time the degree is granted.

Additional requirements for the associate or baccalaureate degree appear below.

Baccalaureate Degree

A *minimum* of 120 semester hours must be successfully completed to earn a bachelor's degree. In addition to requirements stated under Candidacy for a Degree, the following requirements must also be fulfilled for a baccalaureate degree:

Course Levels

At least 60 semester hours must be completed in courses numbered 2600 or higher; at least 48 of these 60 hours must be in courses numbered 3700 or higher.

Majors

Each student must complete a major. A department major consists of at least 30 semester hours of an approved set of courses. A combined major, in which courses are given by more than one department, consists of at least 48 semester hours. All grades in the major must be "C" or better.

Each department determines the course requirements for its own major or majors. Responsibility for certifying that a student has completed a major rests with the chairperson of the major department. The student may be required to do more than the minimum stated in the preceding paragraph.

As soon as a student has decided on a major, he or she should consult with the department chair of the major department. A major must be declared by the time a student has achieved junior standing. Early consultation with the department chair is strongly recommended, since in some departments the student must begin coursework related to the major during the freshman year or risk a delay in graduation.

Minors

A minor is an intellectual venture that broadens and deepens the student's intellectual growth. An intellectual framework and coherence are evident in the scope and sequence of the minor course of study. A minor is intended to contrast with or deepen the major or General Education and is to be taken in a discipline other than that of the major. In approved interdisciplinary minors, courses from the student's major discipline can be counted in the minor provided that the same courses are not counted toward the major. Each student must complete a minor, unless the student has a combined major or is enrolled in a professional or technical curriculum that does not require a delineated minor. Check with an academic advisor for specific information.

A minor consists of at least 18 hours of an approved set of courses. All grades in the minor must be "C" or better. Courses taken under the Credit/No Credit option may not be counted toward the minor. Upper-division courses must comprise at least 1/3 of the credit hours in the minor. An individualized minor may be developed and approved through the Individualized Curriculum Process (ICP). Transfer students may also use the ICP process for approval of a minor course of study. An official minor is designated on the student's transcript at the time the degree is awarded.

Each department develops the specific pattern or sequence of courses for any minor(s) it offers. However, the department in which the student receives the major is responsible for certifying that a student has completed a minor. Certification will be guided by the description of minors published in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*. For a list of minors and their requirements see Minors List.

Certificates

A certificate identifies a concentration of study in an academic area. There are a limited number of academic areas where certificates are available, and students should consult the program descriptions for this information. All grades for the certificate must be "C" or better.

Associate Degree

A *minimum* of 60 semester hours must be successfully completed in order to earn an associate degree. Students in associate degree programs must take a minimum of six general education courses, including Writing I and Writing II, and four additional courses selected from at least three of the following areas: mathematics, speech, natural science, arts and humanities, social science, or social and personal awareness. No more than one course counted toward the requirement may be in mathematics. Students should check with their departments to see if certain general education courses are mandated by their program.

Commencement

Graduation ceremonies take place twice a year. Fall commencement is held in December and spring commencement is held in May. Students who graduate summer are invited to participate in either spring or fall commencement activities.