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U N I V E R S I T Y of H O U S T O N

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE BUSINESS PROGRAMS

APPROVED DEC 05 2012

TO: Jeanette F. Morales, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Program Management

FROM: Frank Kelley, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Business Programs

DATE: October 11, 2012

RECEIVED OCT 12 2012

RE: Proposal for changes to degree plan filing requirements

The Bauer College of Business proposes to the UH Undergraduate Committee the following changes to degree plan filing requirements in light of Texas HB 3025 and to facilitate degree progress. The proposal would require that pre-business majors file a degree plan by completion of 45 hours unless an exception is approved by the Office of Undergraduate Business Programs. Students would also need to complete STAT 3331, GENB 2301 (proposed to be changed to GENB 3302), and clear the Business Writing Evaluation (and Business Writing Tutorial if required) to file, but be allowed to take HIST 1377 and 1378, POLS 1336 and 1337, and the six hours of core approved natural sciences subsequent to filing a degree plan if necessary.

Current Catalog Language:

Degree Progress and Filing a Degree Plan

Pre-business majors are expected to complete university core and pre-business courses during their freshman and sophomore years. Junior standing, or at least 45 hours for students in a mixed program, and completion of all specific course prerequisites and corequisites are required before students may take 3000-level business courses. A mixed program is a one-semester transition in which pre-business students who are not yet juniors but have completed at least 45 hours may take upper level business courses to have a full course load, as long as they meet specific course prerequisites/corequisites and qualify to file a degree plan at the end of that semester. Students who qualify for a mixed program should meet with their pre-business academic advisor in order to be placed into a mixed program registration group prior to the next registration cycle.

In order to declare a business major and file a major degree plan (and for business majors to file a business minor), students must:

1. be a pre-business major with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average at the University of Houston,
2. have completed 6 hours of Communication, the U.S. History and American Government requirements, 6 hours of Natural Sciences, and PSYC 1300 or SOC 1300 (core courses for the Humanities, the Visual/Performing Arts, and the Writing in the Disciplines requirements may be completed after students file a degree plan),

3. complete all pre-business courses (MATH 1313 and 1314, ECON 2304 and 2305, ACCT 2331 and 2332, and MIS 3300) with a minimum grade of C in each of these courses taken at the University of Houston,

Students are expected to file a degree plan through the Office of Undergraduate Business Programs, 262 Melcher Hall, as soon as the student has completed 60 credit hours.

Proposed Catalog Language:

Degree Progress and Filing a Degree Plan

Students are required to file a degree plan through the Office of Undergraduate Business Programs (UBP) by the end of the semester in which they complete 45 hours, or for students who transfer to UH with 45 or more hours, by the end of their first semester at UH, unless an exception is approved by UBP. Pre-business students planning to take 3000-level business courses, except for designated courses, must be approved by their academic advisor for a mixed program, and have completed all specific course prerequisites and corequisites. A mixed program is a one or two semester transition in which pre-business students with a GPA of 2.5 or above are approved to take 3000-level business courses or by petition for 4000-level business courses prior to filing a degree plan. Qualified students who need a mixed program should meet with their pre-business academic advisor in order to be placed into a mixed program registration group prior to the next registration cycle. Pre-business majors with 45 or more hours on College Academic Notice (below a 2.5 GPA) should consider alternative majors to business and courses appropriate for transitioning to those majors or the Business Foundations minor unless approved by their academic advisor for an exception. In accordance with HB 3025, pre-business majors must file a degree plan in business no later than the end of their second regular semester after completing 45 hours, or if they transferred to UH with 45 or more hours, not later than their second regular semester at UH, or they must change their major to a non-business major for which they qualify.

In order to declare a business major and file a major degree plan (and for business majors to file a business minor), students must:

1. be a pre-business major with a 2.5 or above cumulative grade point average at the University of Houston,
2. complete 6 hours of core-approved Communication, and 3 hours of PSYC 1300 or SOC 1300. Core courses for U.S. History, American Government, Natural Sciences, Humanities, the Visual/Performing Arts, and the Writing in the Disciplines (met through GENB 4350) requirements may be completed after students file a degree plan (note that the last 30 semester hours for a degree must be completed in residence on this campus),
3. complete all pre-business courses (MATH 1313 and 1314, ECON 2304 and 2305, ACCT 2331 and 2332, and MIS 3300) with a minimum grade of C in each of these courses taken at the University of Houston,
4. complete GENB 2301 (proposed to be 3302) and STAT 3331, and
5. clear the Business Writing Evaluation (and Business Writing Tutorial if required).

Justification

This proposal is designed with the following considerations:

- Complying with HB 3025, which stipulates that students must file a degree plan during the second regular semester after completion of 45 hours:
<http://e-lobbyist.com/gaits/text/316678>.
- Improving the success rates in STAT 3331 by requiring it to be taken earlier in a student's academic career in sequence with their mathematics requirements.
- Providing guidance on selecting a major and a career path prior to declaring a specific major in business by requiring GENB 2301 (proposed as GENB 3302) to file a degree plan.
- Completing the BWE (and BWT, if required) prior to filing a degree plan so that a student is better prepared for business courses with writing assignments.