

JUN 16 2014 *gm*

TO: Sarah Fishman, Associate Dean, CLASS

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CLASS - Academic Affairs

DATE: February 11, 2014

RECEIVED APR 24 2014

RE: Request to update the University of Houston's Bachelor of Arts Degree Special Requirements.

Proposed revision to the University of Houston's Bachelor of Arts Degree Special Requirements.

Note: If approved, it is recommended for the proposed revision to apply to all students rather than only those students on the catalog in which the update is approved.

Section: Bachelor of Arts Degree Special Requirements
<http://catalog.uh.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=1087>

Current UH Catalog wording:

Bachelor of Arts Degree Special Requirements

Policies > Degree Requirements > Bachelor of Arts Degree Special Requirements

Candidates for any Bachelor of Arts degree must complete at least six semester hours at the 2000-level or higher in one foreign language. Students may satisfy part or all of this requirement by placement examination.

Deans may waive this requirement for students majoring in their college who can demonstrate that they meet at least one of the following requirements:

1. students presented a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score to qualify for admission to the university, or
2. successfully completed ENGL 1309 and ENGL 1310 in residence, or
3. completed at least eight years of formal education in schools where English was not the primary language of instruction.

Suggested Revisions: (in bold below)

Bachelor of Arts Degree Special Requirements

Policies > Degree Requirements > Bachelor of Arts Degree Special Requirements

Candidates for any Bachelor of Arts degree must complete at least six semester hours at the 2000-level or higher in one foreign language.

The foreign language requirement can be met the following ways:

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1. Satisfactory completion of six semester hours of credit at the 2000-level or higher in one foreign language.
Satisfactory completion may require up to four (4) sequential level courses starting at the beginning of a freshman level foreign language (up to 16 credit hours) depending on the level of placement.
3. Satisfactory completion of three (3) semester hours of credit at the second semester sophomore level or higher of an (*approved*) foreign language course.
4. Students may satisfy part or all of this requirement by placement/credit by examination (Contact the UH Testing Center for UH approved placement/credit by exams options.)

Deans may waive this requirement for students majoring in their college who can demonstrate that they meet at least one of the following requirements:

1. students presented a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score to qualify for admission to the university, or
2. successfully completed ENGL 1309 and ENGL 1310 in residence, or completed at least eight years of formal education in schools where English was not the primary language of instruction.

- * Placement exams are required prior to enrollment in Spanish courses at UH.
- * High School foreign language credit does not apply.
- * It is highly recommended that all levels of the foreign language courses are completed at one institution.

Justification for proposal:

This change, if approved, will improve UH graduation rates by providing students with different options to complete the foreign language requirement and also and clarifying current policies.

The following options were already listed in the catalog:

1. Satisfactory completion of six semester hours of credit at the 2000-level or higher in one foreign language.
4. Students may satisfy part or all of this requirement by placement examination.

The addition of # 2 is to clarify for students that it takes up to 4 semesters to complete (rather than two) when students start from the first semester freshman level.

The addition of # 3 is to clarify that the 6 credit requirement can be satisfied with 3 credit hours when students complete the second semester sophomore level or higher of an approved foreign language course.

#4, although already in the catalog, includes additional information/direction on placement and exam options listed in the UH Testing Center.

Additional notes are added at the bottom to clarify common issues.