

The attached summary of GDR data will not provide the exact answers to the GDR questions that the committee is trying to answer but the information does shed some light on the total number of credits student are taking to graduate within each major, the total number of GDR credits a student's complete upon graduation (including GDR courses that were taken as part of the major), and the number of GDR sections offered under each GDR category.

If you are trying to answer the question on what is minimum number of GDR credits required by each major I suggest you request that each Department Chair report to the committee on the number of GDR credits/courses that are required in their major. They should then subtract those credits from the number of credits required within the respected GDR categories.

The reports attached in this document include an overall picture of the average number of GDR credits taken by each major, including electives. Since I can only report on all GDR courses completed, the GDR courses that are required in the major, along with electives, created higher GDR counts in these reports. These reports show the average number of GDR credits earned, whether they were counted in the major or not.

- NOTE: All credits calculated in the attached reports, including GDR, are based strictly on students that enrolled at UWSP as new freshmen. Students with transfer credit were removed from the counts but students that earned credit by exam were left in. The data in the majors reports are based on 1,473 graduates of UWSP that earned a degree between 2005-06 and 2006-07, who also met the criteria stated above.

Within the attachments there are a few different worksheets that highlight the total number of sections offered by GDR category as well as the credits earned towards graduation by major and by college.

- On average, the university offered a total 3084 sections during the fall terms, of which, 764 courses (24.8%) had GDR designations and 112 sections (3.6%) satisfied more than one GDR category.

- Over half (55%) of the GDR courses offered that satisfied more than one GDR category also had only one section associated with the course.
- Based on the data, there does not appear to be enough multi GDR (silver bullet) courses available during registration to allow students to plan silver bullet courses only. On average, students take about 12 credits of GDR courses that satisfy more than one GDR category. However, not all students are taking a multi GDR courses to satisfy more than one category.

The high number of GDR credits documented in these reports may reflect:

- Additional GDR credits required in the major
- Elective GDR credits that were taken as part of the major
- Additional GDR credit earned from a student that changed majors. After changing majors, a student will realize that a GDR category that was already completed now has a course from that same category required in their major
- Students taking additional 100/200 level courses and/or GDR courses to remain full-time or balance out their credit load for the term

Future Issues for the committee to consider...

As you move forward with these discussions, I think it is important to note:

- The credits that are required in the major, and or electives, should be counted as credit that can reduce the number of GDR requirements.
- The credits that are required in the major, that also have GDR designation, are not always readily available to students during registration. Students probably register for other GDR courses that end up satisfying a GDR category when a course required for their major would have sufficed.
- If the total number of GDR credits was to be reduced and the number of credits required in the major was to remain the same, it appears that students would have more options with double majors, minors,

department certificates, and/or related course work that would complement their career goals and interests while still staying within the 120 credits needed towards graduation (which our graduates tend to exceed quite easily). Is there any way that we can reduce the time-to-degree while also satisfying the goals and objectives of a general education curriculum?

Among all of the questions your committee is trying to answer, and I commend them for the daunting task they are undertaking, I was curious how the new general education requirements will impact the degree requirements of the university.

The general degree requirements a student must satisfy in order to receive a baccalaureate degree from UW-Stevens Point is based upon the degree type they select. Students are able select general degree requirements based on different degree types (B.A., B.S., B.M. or B.F.A.).

A student earning a Bachelor of Arts degree will receive a B.A. diploma and it is their transcript that designates all of the majors and minors that were earned during their time enrolled. How will the new general education curriculum differentiate the different degree types?

Currently,

- a B.A. degree emphasizes foreign languages, the humanities, and history.
- a B.S. degree a student will concentrate more on mathematics and the natural sciences.
- a BM or BFA a student will study a range of subjects that complement the curriculum in their major field.

I have heard discussion that the departments will differentiate new requirements within their major. If a department offered both a B.A. and a B.S. degree will the new requirements be built into the major for the two different degree types (i.e. a 40 credit major track for the B.A and a 40 credit major track for the B.S. degree, each requiring X amount of credits to differentiate the two degree types)?

What if a student completes one major for which there is a B.A. designation only and another major for which there is B.S. designation. Since the University grants students only one diploma upon graduation (B.A., B.S.,

B.M. or B.F.A.) under the new system would the student get to select which degree they preferred or would that be dictated by a certain degree order?

- Bachelor of arts (B.A.)
- Bachelor of science (B.S.)
- Bachelor of music (B.M.) / Bachelor of fine arts (B.F.A.)
- Associate degree

Let me know if you need any clarifications with the attached information.

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