Completion of a Degree

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Requirements

Baccalaureate Degrees

Requirements for the baccalaureate degree at UAB include at least 120 semester hours of appropriately distributed courses, a UAB GPA of 2.00, a 2.00 GPA on all college work attempted (Higher Education grade point average), and satisfaction of the Core Curriculum, major, minor (if required), and residency requirements, along with all other criteria specified by the school or department governing the major.

Students are subject to the catalog policies in effect at the time of their most recent admission as a degree-seeking student, with the following exceptions. Seven years after the date of their first enrollment as a degree-seeking student, policies of the catalog currently in effect become applicable. The student who is not enrolled at UAB for 12 consecutive months must meet the requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of re-enrollment. For courses required for the major or minor, the administering department(s) may establish written policies for the recertification of courses taken more than seven years previously.

Residency

At least 25 percent of the total semester hours required for graduation, including at least 21 of the last 30, must be taken at UAB. Courses taken as alternative credit or as a non-degree student (excluding post-baccalaureate students) may not be used to satisfy the residency requirement. A minimum of nine semester hours required for the major (at or above the 400 level) must be completed at UAB. Individual departments may have additional requirements.

Total Credits and Averages

The minimum total credit hours required for a baccalaureate degree is 120 semester hours. The student must have a higher education grade point average of at least 2.00 (C) in all credit hours attempted at all institutions including UAB and an average of at least 2.00 (C) in all credit hours attempted at UAB.

Distribution of Credits

In addition to the overall requirements mentioned above, there are important requirements for the distribution of credits. All programs of study leading to the baccalaureate degree have as an essential component a common Core Curriculum. Students majoring in the Schools of Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing, and Health Professions satisfy Core Curriculum requirements in addition to specific school requirements and requirements in their chosen major(s). In the College of Arts and Sciences students meet Core Curriculum requirements, requirements for a major specialization, and any requirements for a minor, specialization or concentration, if required.

Major

Requirements for majors vary and can be found in the sections of this catalog on the specific academic unit responsible for the major. A minimum C average in the major is required for graduation. Furthermore, the academic unit responsible for the major may require the student to repeat, or otherwise compensate for, any course required for the major in which a grade below C was earned. Majors should be declared or changed online (https://www.uab.edu/students/academics/item/833-changing-majors). Some majors are subject to additional admission requirements and enrollment limitations.

Double Major

Students who wish to double major must maintain an affiliation with one school and graduate under that school's core curriculum and major requirements. In addition, the student must complete the requirements for the second major including all prerequisites. It is important for students to maintain contact with advisors of both majors so that requirements are completed for both majors.

Dual/Multiple Degrees

A bachelor's degree is based on at least 120 semester hours of coursework. For each additional degree, a student must complete at least 30 semester hours of work over and above the work done for the first degree. As with the first degree, work done for each additional degree must include any necessary prerequisites for the new major and all major requirements. The residency requirement must be met for each degree.

Second Bachelor's Degree

After graduating with a bachelor's degree, a student may earn a second bachelor's degree by completing in residence, with an average of C or better, at least 30 semester hours of work taken subsequent to awarding of the first degree. Work done for the second degree must include any necessary prerequisites for the new major and all major requirements. The first degree, whether earned at UAB or another regionally accredited institution, must be based on at least 120 semester hours of fully accredited work. No minor is required for the second degree. A student interested in earning a second degree is required to have the program of study approved by the school in advance.

Minor

The availability of minors is indicated in the sections of this catalog on the various schools. The course requirements for the minor are specified in the catalog section for the department offering the minor. The department offering the minor may require the student to repeat, or otherwise compensate for, any course required for the minor in which a grade below C was earned. Whether a minor is required for a particular
major is specified in the catalog section for the school in which the major resides.

**Individually Designed Majors and Minors**

Students with specific career goals or with unique intellectual objectives may propose majors and minors designed to meet their individual academic needs. The Individually Designed Major requires a minimum of 40 semester hours in the major, of which at least 20 semester hours must be in courses numbered at or above 300 and approved for use towards a major, with a minimum of a C average. Students are not permitted to apply the same individual course(s) to satisfy both a minor and a major. In addition, students must prepare a rationale for a nonstandard major-level course of study, complete Core Curriculum requirements, and complete any additional requirements set by the school in which the degree will be awarded. The Individually Designed Minor requires completion of 21 semester hours, of which nine semester hours must be in courses numbered at or above 300, with a minimum of a C average. The Individually Designed Major or Minor must be reviewed and approved by the departments involved, by the dean of the school in which the degree will be awarded, and by the Office of the Registrar. For advising on program development and approval procedures, consult the Office of the Registrar, registrar@uab.edu; 1605 11th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35294.

**Limitations on Some Types of Credit**

For some types of credit, there are limitations on the amount that can be applied toward the minimum hours required for a baccalaureate degree (usually 120 semester hours).

1. For credits transferred from a two-year college, the limit is no more than one-half the number required for a baccalaureate degree, provided that the work is freshman (100) or sophomore (200) level.
2. For alternative work, including Advanced Placement, College Level Examination Program, credit by examination, evaluation of non-collegiate-sponsored courses, credit for military services courses, International Baccalaureate credit, and credit by portfolio, the limit is no more than 45 semester hours.

**Bachelor’s Degree with Honors**

The Higher Education grade point average is used in conferring academic honors at graduation and is based on all college work attempted. Honors designations are conferred according to the following GPA Ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA Range</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.50 - 3.69</td>
<td>cum laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.70 - 3.89</td>
<td>magna cum laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.90 or above</td>
<td>summa cum laude</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Procedures for Applying for a Degree**

Students are advised to file an online application for degree at least two terms prior to completing work for a baccalaureate degree. This will allow time for the application to be processed and completion of degree requirements to be verified. The absolute deadline to apply for degree is the tenth day of the term in which the student plans to graduate. Online applications are available at [http://www.uab.edu/commencement/degree-applications](http://www.uab.edu/commencement/degree-applications).

**Graduation**

Official UAB graduation ceremonies are held in May for graduates of the preceding spring semester and in December for graduates of the preceding summer term and fall semester. Graduates are listed in the commencement program. Students who have completed the requirements for baccalaureate degrees are urged to attend.

Although degrees are officially conferred in April and December, students receive their diplomas approximately four weeks after the end of the regular term in which they complete their degree requirements, provided the application for degree is submitted by the published deadline. Please visit the commencement website for additional information [http://www.uab.edu/commencement](http://www.uab.edu/commencement).