

# Change to Academic Residency Graduation Requirement

## Background information

Currently, [WOU's university graduation requirements](#) state that undergraduate students must complete at least 45 of the last 60 credits of their degree with courses taught at WOU. Although this requirement is important, and ensures that undergraduate students meet WOU's undergraduate learning outcomes, the current phrasing may unintentionally create barriers to graduation.

The Academic Petition Review Committee, which reviews student petitions for this and other university requirements, has noticed patterns of students petitioning this for reasons such as:

- Moving and needing to finish remaining credits elsewhere
- Excessive credits
- Completing and transferring lower-division courses toward the end of their degree
- Transfer electives that do not apply to requirements
- Financial hardship

The committee has reviewed requirements from other Oregon public universities, which are as follows:

1. EOU: at least 45 credits at EOU, does not matter when
2. SOU: at least 45 of the last 60 and 20 upper-division credits in residence at SOU
3. OSU: at least 150 credits total at OSU or 45 of the last 75
4. PSU: at least 167 credits at PSU or 45 of the last 60
5. UO: at least 45 at UO combined with credits in residence depending on the number of credits for the degree:
  1. 180 for degree = 120 in residence
  2. 220 for degree = 160 in residence
  3. 225 for degree = 165 in residence
  4. 231 for degree = 171 in residence

Based on the frequency of student petitions and the requirements at our peer institutions, the committee recommends adopting a requirement similar to OSU's, where students may either transfer to WOU to earn their degree or complete a degree earned mostly at WOU at another institution if needed.

# Proposal

The academic residency graduation requirement be revised as follows:

Current WOU catalog statement:

Complete at least 45 of the last 60 credits in Western Oregon University courses\*

\*Note: For programs that require instruction at another regionally accredited college or university, please consult the academic program entry in the catalog for details regarding the appropriate alternate path to completing the academic residency requirement.

Proposed WOU catalog statement (changes are marked in **bold and underlined**):

Complete **either at least 150 credits OR** at least 45 of the last **75** credits in Western Oregon University courses\*

\*Note: For programs that require instruction at another regionally accredited college or university, please consult the academic program entry in the catalog for details regarding the appropriate alternate path to completing the academic residency requirement.

If approved, this requirement will apply to students in the catalog year 2021/22 and forward. Students in older catalog years who petition the requirement because they meet the revised regulation will be granted an automatic exception.