Introduction to Degree Requirements

Completion of the General Education (GE) Requirements

The effectiveness of an education in the liberal arts and sciences is critically dependent upon the broad foundation of studies referred to as GE. Through our GE program, students learn a variety of basic skills and modes of disciplinary inquiry. General education courses are not simply the preliminary and introductory studies of the various disciplines; rather, they provide the necessary context for the more specific study in the major and for the selection of appropriate electives. The courses within the various areas and sub-areas, investigate the complexity of the human experience in a diverse natural and social world, and promotes informed and ethical participation as citizens of the world. To achieve this, the program aims to develop within each student: (1) a foundation of intellectual skills and capacities; (2) a social and global knowledge; (3) an understanding and use of multiple methods of inquiry and approaches to knowledge; and (4) capacities for integration and lifelong learning.

Completion of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirements (GWAR)

The Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) is intended to ensure that all students graduating from a California State University (CSU) have acquired the writing skills necessary for competent written communication. At Sonoma State University, there are two ways students may complete the GWAR -- either by passing the Written English Proficiency Test (WEPT) or by passing a designated Writing Intensive Curriculum (WIC) course. Either method is available after a student has reached Junior-standing (60+ units completed).

Good Academic Standing

To maintain Good Academic Standing, a student must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.000 in both their Cumulative GPA and their In-Residence GPA. The Cumulative GPA includes all college-level coursework attempted across all colleges/universities. The In-Residence GPA includes only college-level coursework attempted at Sonoma State University. For most students, their Cumulative and In-Residence GPAs are the same throughout their studies. Students who do not maintain Good Academic Standing, are subject to probation and/or disqualification per university policies. Students must be in Good Academic Standing at the time of graduation to be eligible for graduation. In addition, each student must earn at least a 2.000 in their major coursework to be eligible for graduation.

Completion of Major Requirements

Through a concentration of studies in a particular major, students focus in depth upon a particular set of disciplines or subject areas. Because major programs vary considerably in their requirements, students should consult with faculty advisors early in their academic programs. Students may declare a major at any time, but are required to do so by the time they have earned 60 units.

Unit Requirements

A minimum of 120 semester units is required for graduation, though a handful of degrees require more. Within these 120 units, 40 must be upper-division (level 300-499), 30 must be completed in-residence at Sonoma State University, and 24 of the minimum 30 completed in-residence must also be upper-division. Of these 120 units, a maximum of 24 may be completed as credit/no-credit, while all major/minor courses must be graded A-F, unless the course is not offered in an A-F graded option.