



PROCEDURE

Graduation, Undergraduate

Procedure Administrator: Assistant Provost

Authority:

Effective Date: April 14, 1975, November 2, 1977, June 23, 2010

Index Cross-References:

Procedure File Number: 2050

Approved By: Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President

I. PURPOSE:

To establish the academic requirements for undergraduates concerning graduation and the certification procedures for The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

II. PROCEDURE:

Undergraduate Graduation Requirements. Graduation from Stockton with a bachelor's degree requires a student obtain a minimum cumulative 2.0 grade-point average based upon courses attempted at the institution, and to satisfy the institution's degree requirements: (1) earn a minimum of 128 credits, (2) complete the residency requirement, (3) fulfill the skills competency and proficiency requirements applicable to entering freshmen, and (4) meet all program and General Studies requirements within seven years of matriculation.

The Residency Requirement

Residency requires the following be completed at Stockton:

1. Earn 32 of the final 48 credits
2. One General Integration and Synthesis (GIS) course
3. One Quantitative Reasoning Across the Disciplines (Q2) course
4. Two Writing (W1 or W2) courses, one of which must be at the 3000 level or higher
5. Satisfy the Twenty-Five Percent Rule

Curriculum requirements exist to ensure that Stockton graduates have met the general education intentions for all students, and the goals of General Studies:

- The Twenty-Five Percent Rule
- The Distribution Requirement in General Studies

- The At-Some-Distance Requirement
- The limit on the number of allowable credits per G-category
- The General Education Goals (Attribute) Requirement
- The Writing Requirement
- The Quantitative Reasoning Requirement
- The First Year Studies (FRST) Requirement
- The Freshman Seminar Requirement.

The status of a student, e.g., beginning freshman or transfer, and the student's degree program (B.A. or B.S.) determines the manner in which these requirements must be met.

The Twenty-Five Percent Rule

Twenty-five percent of all the courses a student takes at Stockton must be General Studies courses. This is called the twenty-five percent rule. This rule applies to transfer students as well as first-year students. This rule does not apply to students already holding the baccalaureate degree.

For first-year students and transfer students with less than 64 credits:

Some credits may be allocated as General Studies courses with the following limitations:

- 1 - 15 transfer credits: no General Studies equivalencies awarded
- 16 - 31 transfer credits: up to 1 General Studies equivalency awarded
- 32 - 47 transfer credits: up to 2 General Studies equivalencies awarded
- 48 - 63 transfer credits: up to 3 General Studies equivalencies awarded.

For students with 64 transfer credits:

The General Studies requirement is lowered to 16 credits. The At-Some-Distance credit then grows to 48 credits for the B.A. degree, and 32 credits for the B.S. degree. This is very helpful to transfer students who may have many excess elective credits. The distribution requirement listed below is no longer in effect but all students must take four credits in the GIS category.

The Distribution Requirement

For first-year students and transfer students with less than 64 credits, for all baccalaureate degrees, students complete the following distribution in G-categories:

- 8 credits in GAH
- 4 credits in GEN

- 4 credits in GIS
- 8 credits in GNM
- 8 credits in GSS

At-Some-Distance Requirement

For first-year students and transfers with less than 64 credits, the At-Some-Distance electives constitute one-quarter of the degree for a Bachelor of Arts, and one-eighth of the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees:

Limit on the Number of Allowable Credits per G- Category

For a Bachelor of Arts degree: no more than 16 credits in any G- category may be applied to the B.A. degree.

For a Bachelor of Science degree: no more than 12 credits in any G- category may be applied to the B.S. degree.

The General Education Goals Requirement: Attributes

In addition to the distribution requirement, there is one additional requirement to ensure that these goals are met. All students matriculating in fall of 1999 and thereafter must take and pass one course in each of four areas: Arts (A), Historical Consciousness (H), Values/Ethics (V) and International/Multicultural (I). The sole exception is for students already holding the baccalaureate degree; such students are exempt from this and all General Studies requirements.

Students may take Stockton courses that have been designated by A, H, V, I and apply them to program, cognate, General Studies, and “At-Some-Distance,” as appropriate to satisfy this graduation requirement.

For transfer students, one or more of these courses may already have been taken in transfer. Any unfulfilled categories must be completed at Stockton.

The Writing Requirement

All matriculated students must earn a C or better in each of four writing-designated courses: one W1 (writing) course taken as a freshman and three additional W1 or W2 (writing-across-the-curriculum) courses, at least one of which must be a 3000- or 4000-level course.

Transfer students are subject to the writing requirement. Up to two transfer courses in composition or writing will be credited as W1 courses and counted toward the requirement. All W2 courses must be completed at Stockton.

Writing-designated courses that carry fewer than four credits or transfer courses that

carry fewer than three credits do not count toward the writing requirement.

Writing-Designated Courses

Stockton offers a variety of program and general studies courses at all levels that are writing-designated courses. The level of the writing-designated course is indicated by the course number: 1000 level indicates an introductory writing-designated course; 3000 level indicates a more advanced writing-designated course.

Writing-designated courses are of two kinds: Writing courses (W1) or Writing-Across-the-Curriculum courses (W2). The designation W1 or W2 indicates the role and function of writing in the course, not the degree of writing difficulty.

W1 - Writing courses focus on writing as the subject of the course. The quality of writing is the major criterion for evaluating the student's performance in the course, whether it is an introductory W1 course such as FRST 1101 College Writing or an advanced W1 course such as GAH 3604 The Personal Essay.

W2 - Writing-Across-the-Curriculum courses focus on disciplinary or interdisciplinary content. They use writing as a way of learning subject matter and expressing that learning. They also provide students with opportunities and support to improve their writing skills. The quality of writing, not only mastery of content, is an important criterion in evaluating a student's performance in the course. W2 courses assume minimal competence in writing and in most cases should not be attempted by a student enrolled in FRST 1101 College Writing. These courses are offered in all of the G-acronyms and most of the program acronyms.

The Quantitative Reasoning Requirement

Before graduating, all matriculated students must complete three quantitative-reasoning-designated courses, including at least one Q1 (quantitative-reasoning-intensive) course and at least one Q2 (quantitative-reasoning-across-the-disciplines) course. A Q1 course should be completed during the first year at Stockton.

Transfer students are also subject to the quantitative reasoning requirement. Up to two transfer courses in mathematics and statistics may be credited as Q1 courses and counted toward the requirement. Stockton will not transfer in any Q2 courses. All Q2 courses must be completed at Stockton.

Q-designated courses that carry fewer than 4 credits or transfer courses that carry fewer than 3 credits do not count toward meeting the Quantitative Reasoning Requirement.

Quantitative-Reasoning-Designated Courses

Stockton offers two types of quantitative-reasoning-designated courses: Quantitative-Reasoning-Intensive (Q1) and Quantitative-Reasoning-Across-The-Disciplines (Q2) courses. This designation indicates the role and function of quantitative reasoning in the course, not the degree of difficulty. Q-designated courses appear throughout the curriculum, in Program and General Studies courses. Q1 and Q2 courses emphasize mathematical problem solving with special attention given to the development of problem-solving approaches. In addition, these courses stress the importance of the communication of mathematical ideas in both written and oral forms.

Q1- Quantitative-Reasoning-Intensive Courses: Mathematical thinking is the primary focus of study. Q1 courses emphasize the mathematical structures underlying various phenomena. Although focused on mathematical reasoning, Q1 courses provide ample opportunities for investigating diverse applications of the concepts discussed. These courses draw rich connections among different areas of mathematics. In a Q1 course, the majority of class time is spent on mathematical concepts and procedures. Students work on mathematics during virtually every class session. The quality of their mathematical work is the major criterion for evaluating student performance in the course. Examples of Q1 courses are MATH 2215 Calculus I; GNM 1125 Algebraic Problem Solving; and CSIS 1206 Statistics I.

Q2 - Quantitative-Reasoning-Across-the-Disciplines: In a Q2 course, the focus is on disciplinary or interdisciplinary content outside of mathematics. Quantitative reasoning is used as a tool for understanding this content. Q2 courses feature applications that use real-world data and situations; applying a quantitative perspective to the concepts in the course results in a fuller understanding of both the disciplinary concepts and the mathematical concepts. In a Q2 course, at least 20 percent of class time involves quantitative reasoning. Students are expected to demonstrate their ability to apply mathematical ideas to the course content. Both mastery of disciplinary content and quantitative proficiency are used to evaluate student performance. Examples of Q2 courses include ARTV 2121 Black and White Photography; and CHEM 2110 Chemistry I.

The First Year Studies (FRST) Requirement

First Year Studies (FRST) courses may be applied to the General Studies requirements as part of the “At Some Distance” requirement.

The Freshman Seminar Requirement

All students who enter the College as freshmen, or as transfer students with 15 or fewer credits, are required to enroll in freshman seminars in their first semester. Freshman seminars are courses designed to help students get their college career off to a good start by emphasizing individualized attention, active discussion and development of important learning skills. In addition, Freshman Seminars are the corner-stone of the First-Year Experience for freshmen. Coordination of common co-curricular activities, an annual theme and a common annual reader is led by a faculty member serving as Freshman Seminar Coordinator. These courses, numbered 1001-1099 within the various G-categories, are open only to freshmen. Some of these courses also have another number (cross-listing), since they may occasionally be offered as regular General Studies courses open to other students. They may not be repeated for credit.

For those students who are placed into the First year Studies course, FRST 1002 Readings, that course will serve as their freshman seminar. All other students will be able to choose from a list of courses on a range of topics in the various G-categories.

A student who does not complete a freshman seminar in the first semester must complete one in the second semester.

Substitution

The student may request the substitution of a non-cognate Program course or other designated “General Studies” course for a required General Studies (G- acronym) course.

A written request must be made by the student’s preceptor to the Dean of General Studies and must be approved in advance of registering for the course.