DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The degree requirements that must be fulfilled by all degree-seeking students are listed below. For additional degree requirements, students must consult the school and major departmental sections of this bulletin.

In order for a student to be awarded a diploma, he or she must resolve any outstanding charges owed to the university. The university does not guarantee the award of a degree or a certificate of satisfactory completion of any course of study or training program.

The university reserves the right to revoke any degree, certificate or other university recognition for cause. In addition, any time following the award of a degree, certificate or other university recognition, the university reserves the right to take appropriate action, including, but not limited to, the revocation of such degree, certificate or other university recognition, on the basis of academic misconduct discovered subsequent to, but which occurred prior to, the awarding of the degree, certificate or other university recognition. More specifically, when an action that constitutes a violation of the VCU Honor System leads to a finding that invalidates a major piece of work required for a degree, certificate or other university recognition so that the validity of the degree, certificate or other university recognition is jeopardized, the student or former student will be subject to a sanction that may include (a) rejection of a thesis, dissertation or other work, (b) revocation of a certification or other university recognition or (c) revocation of a degree.

Effective bulletin

The bulletin for the academic year a student enters or re-enters a degree program identifies the curriculum degree requirements for that student. Students in continuous enrollment may fulfill the curriculum degree requirements of the bulletin for the year they entered VCU or choose to be subject to the curriculum degree requirements articulated in a subsequent bulletin. Subsequent bulletins can be chosen throughout a student’s academic career. In either case, students must fulfill all curriculum degree requirements listed in the bulletin they choose.

A student’s effective bulletin will remain in effect until the degree is awarded. Change in academic program (major, concentration, minor) will not result in a change in effective bulletin unless the student chooses to be subject to the curriculum degree requirements articulated in a subsequent bulletin.

Students readmitted to the university will fall under the bulletin in effect at the time of readmission. At the discretion of the school dean, department chair or program head, degree requirements may be waived and/or previously taken courses may be substituted for requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

Upper-level courses

A minimum of 45 credits in 300- to 500-level courses or the equivalent is required for a bachelor’s degree.

GPA requirement

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 (grade C) is required in order to receive a baccalaureate degree. Only credits taken at VCU are computed in the GPA.

Some programs may require a higher cumulative GPA. Students should consult the section of this bulletin that deals with their major for any GPA requirements above the university’s 2.0 minimum.

Major area GPA

A minimum major GPA of 2.0 (grade of C) is required for graduation. The major area GPA will be calculated from all attempts in courses that are designated as required or optional in the student’s major area, regardless of assigned grade. Exceptions to this calculation will be limited to, the revocation of such degree, certificate or other university recognition, on the basis of academic misconduct discovered subsequent to, but which occurred prior to, the awarding of the degree, certificate or other university recognition for cause. In addition, any time following the award of a degree, certificate or other university recognition, the university reserves the right to take appropriate action, including, but not limited to, the revocation of such degree, certificate or other university recognition, on the basis of academic misconduct discovered subsequent to, but which occurred prior to, the awarding of the degree, certificate or other university recognition so that the validity of the degree, certificate or other university recognition is jeopardized, the student or former student will be subject to a sanction that may include (a) rejection of a thesis, dissertation or other work, (b) revocation of a certification or other university recognition or (c) revocation of a degree.

Total credits

The minimum semester credits for any undergraduate VCU degree is 120. The total number of semester credits required for graduation depends on the student’s major and area of concentration. Specific information on total credit requirements is detailed under individual degree program descriptions in this bulletin.

25 percent rule

Degree candidates must complete at least 25 percent of the credit semester hours required for their bachelor’s degree program at VCU, including at least 30 of the last 45 credits. Active-duty service members, reservists and National Guardsmen may complete the minimum of 25 percent of their degree requirements at any time while enrolled at VCU and are exempt from the “30 of the last 45 credits” requirement. Other exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Academic Regulations Appeals Committee. If ARAC approves the request for a waiver, the approved credits must be completed within three years from the time of the waiver.

During a student’s last 45 credits at VCU, transfer credits attempted elsewhere must be approved in advance by the appropriate school dean, department chair or program head via the “Request to Take Courses at Another Institution” form, available online at Records and Registration Forms (http://rar.vcu.edu/forms).

This requirement does not apply to students who participate in VCU-sponsored programs abroad or who earn course credit at a cooperating university through VCU domestic and international university exchanges or who are pursuing an undergraduate certificate independently of a baccalaureate degree.