

Report of the Committee on Degrees
Spring - Fall 2001

For Academic Year 2000-2001, the following faculty served on the Committee on Degrees: Cindy Hahamovitch (History), Carla Buck (MLL), Kathleen Morgan (Chemistry) and Martin Mathes (Biology). The Dean of Undergraduate Studies is the permanent chair of the committee.

The Committee's philosophy has been to follow the Undergraduate Catalog very closely. In particular, it has taken a very strong stance on upholding the restrictions of using courses taken in summer school elsewhere for GERs and proficiencies. It would appreciate all department chairs, program directors, freshmen and concentration advisors become familiar with pages 65-69 of the current catalog.

Petitions to COD fall into two categories: 1) those that the COD considers and 2) those that the Dean of Undergraduate Studies has been given authority to approve on behalf of the COD.

For category 1, the COD approved 88 petitions for AY 2000-2001. Some of the most common requests were to:

- ◆ Compensate for mistakes printed in the student Degree Audit Report (DAR)
- ◆ Waive the ten-semester rule
- ◆ Count transfer or study abroad courses for GER
- ◆ Waive the senior residency requirement (above 7 credits)
- ◆ Count W&M non-designated courses as a GER

For category 2, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies approved 90 petitions in Fall 2000 and 101 petitions in Spring 2001. The most frequent requests are to:

- ◆ Waive the senior residency requirement (7 or fewer credits)
- ◆ Change concentration requirements
- ◆ Waive the 48-hour rule for Art concentrators
- ◆ Approve late concentration declarations in International Relations and International Studies
- ◆ Substitute the lower-division writing requirement (portfolio evaluation by S. Zuber)

The Committee on Degrees has been concerned with the increasing number of incoming students who have transfer credit or Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate credit. Often a two-year college awards credit for a course taught in a high school by a high school teacher. This can have serious consequences for many freshmen. The COD, in consultation with Randy Coleman, Director of Academic Advising, has established a new policy for AY 2001-2002. Students desiring to retake a course for which they have received credit, either from transfer, AP or IB, and not have the original credit count, can do so by petitioning. The Dean of Undergraduate Studies approves these on behalf of the Committee. The following petitions have been approved for Fall 2001:

AP credit:	6	Math 111
	2	Math 112
	1	CSci 141
	1	Govt 201
Transfer:	1	Bio 203 & Bio 204
	1	Rus 101 & Rus 102

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara A. Watkinson
Dean of Undergraduate Studies
& Chair of the Committee on Degrees

