

Report of the Committee on Degrees  
Academic Year 2008-2009

For the academic year 2008-2009, the following faculty served on the Committee on Degrees: Greg Capelli (Biology), Larry Evans (Government), Anne Rasmussen (Music), and Denise Wade (Theatre, Speech and Dance). The Dean for Educational Policy served as chair of the committee.

Petitions fall into two categories: 1) those that the COD considers and 2) those that the Dean for Educational Policy (or after 1 July 2009, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies) approves on behalf of the COD.

For category 1, the COD considered 52 petitions and approved 40 in AY 2008-2009. The most common requests were to:

- Waive the ten-semester rule
- Waive the 48-hour rule in major
- Dual enrollment at W&M and other institutions
- Count non-approved courses toward GER requirements
- Take courses for GER requirements or proficiencies elsewhere

For category 2, the Dean for Educational Policy considered 48 formal petitions in Fall 2008 and 65 in Spring 2009. The Dean handles via email many more requests, especially those requesting course substitutions for major and minor requirements. Most were approved. The most frequent requests were to:

- Waive the senior residency requirement (one semester or less)
- Retroactively transfer credit from other universities
- Change in major or minor requirements
- Allow overlapping courses for major and minor
- Allow transfer credit to satisfy major and minor requirements
- Allow courses taken abroad to fulfill GER 4 and 5 requirements
- Allow final elective credits to be taken elsewhere

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Peterson  
Dean of Undergraduate Studies