

MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Hudelson, Executive Secretary
Faculty Senate

FROM: Becky Bitter, Registrar's Office

FOR: Academic Affairs Committee

DATE: February 21, 2022

SUBJECT: Proposal to Revise Rules 2, 4, and 25

At its meeting on February 15, 2022, AAC approved the following revisions to Rules 2, 4, and 25. The prompt for the revisions comes from the Provost's Office with this rationale:

“The Provost's Office, in coordination with the Registrar's Office, the WSU President's Commission on Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation, GIESO, and ASWSU proposes to update Rules 2, 4, and 25. Each rule includes language that includes the term “Freshman” and it is now desired to remove this language and replace it with the gender-neutral term “First-year Student”. This will create more inclusive language in our communication to current and future students, staff, and faculty. It also brings WSU into alignment with Senate Bill 5077, a law passed by the State of Washington in 2013 that removed the term “freshman” out of official state language and replaced it with “first-year student”. This change did not extend to higher education at the time. A similar change in language is now being enacted at peer institutions such as Yale University (enacted in 2017) and Penn State University (enacted in 2021).”

AAC fully supports the following revisions to reflect this change in language:

2. FRESHMAN FIRST-YEAR STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

~~Freshman~~ First-year student applicants are considered for admission to the university on the basis of their academic records and other supporting documents, which include official transcripts that show coursework through at least grade 11 or its equivalent, completion of the Washington College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs), and other relevant materials as requested or as may be provided. On the basis of these criteria, the most qualified applicants are offered admission.

4. TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS

c. Applicants with fewer than 27 semester (40 quarter) hours of transferable credit will be considered for admission if they also meet the ~~freshman~~ first-year student requirements. Applicants whose cumulative transfer grade point average is lower than a 2.5 may have their academic record reviewed more comprehensively to determine admission eligibility.

25. ACADEMIC LEVEL (CLASS STANDING) FOR UNDERGRADUATES

An undergraduate student's academic level (or class standing) is based on the number of credits earned. This level is used to meet requirements for enrollment, financial aid and scholarships, housing, etc. A student's academic level includes awarded transfer credit.

Total Credits Earned	Academic Level
0 – 29	Freshman <u>First-Year Student</u>
30 – 59	Sophomore
60 – 89	Junior
90 +	Senior

An undergraduate student with a prior bachelor's degree is classified as a post-baccalaureate student regardless of the number of credits earned. Post-baccalaureate students are not considered graduate students.

At this time, Faculty Senate review and approval is recommended, to be effective fall 2022.