

MEMORANDUM

TO: Amy Nielsen, Executive Secretary
Faculty Senate

FROM: Becky Bitter, Registrar's Office

FOR: Academic Affairs Committee

DATE: 26 February 2020

SUBJECT: Proposal to Establish New Rule 145, Discontinued Degree Programs

At its meeting on February 25, 2020, AAC approved a proposal to establish new Rule 145, Discontinued Degree Programs. The following information has been part of the Summary of Academic Policy section of the catalog. The text from that portion is being merged into the academic regulations to benefit students and others.

The rule has been reviewed by the Provost's Office and the Graduate School for accuracy.

145. Discontinued Degree Programs

Undergraduate students who have been admitted to the major, graduate students accepted to degree candidacy, and matriculated professional students can expect that a degree will be granted if they are currently enrolled and meet all requirements as listed in Academic Regulations 110-118. However, because of serious reductions in financial support, loss of faculty, or for other significant reasons, the university may find it necessary to discontinue a degree.

When an undergraduate or professional degree is discontinued, further admission to the major will cease with the effective date of the degree's discontinuation. For graduate degree programs, admissions will be suspended with the filing for discontinuation and terminated with the effective date of the discontinuation.

Academic leadership of the college and campus has the obligation to provide for individual needs of currently enrolled students so that they may complete their degrees within a reasonable time period, typically no longer than four years. Possible options include the following:

1. Departments and programs may waive or substitute departmental degree requirements in order to award a degree (approval of the graduate school is required for graduate students) when accreditation or licensure allows;
2. The Provost's Office may substitute or waive university-level undergraduate graduation requirements by petition;
3. When necessary, students may be advised to complete their requirements in similar or related degree programs;

4. Undergraduate and professional students may be allowed to complete remaining requirements at another institution; and
5. Graduate students may be allowed to take courses or conduct research at another institution when approved by the student's graduate committee and the graduate school.

In all cases, all financial obligations are the responsibility of the individual student involved, except as otherwise noted in the Washington State University Catalog or the Graduate Studies Policies and Procedures Manual.

Students having questions or concerns about degree programs that have been discontinued should contact the college dean or campus chancellor. The Provost's Office and University Ombudsman are also available at any stage for advice or assistance.

At this time, Faculty Senate review and approval is recommended, to be effective fall 2020.