

Washington and Lee University Curricular Changes for 2009-10

(italics call attention to the primary change; page numbers refer to the 2009-10 catalog)

Credits & Requirements

- **Total Credits Required for Graduation:** A minimum of *113* credits are required for a W&L degree. (p. 50)
- **Credits That Must be Taken at W&L:** No more than *56 of the 113* credits required for the W&L degree may be earned elsewhere or by any other means than through courses offered at W&L or through formal exchanges (e.g. VMI, Mary Baldwin, Spelman, etc). (p. 73)
- **Limits on Incoming Credits:** For the entering Class of 2013, first-year students may receive a maximum of *28 credits from any and all non-W&L sources completed prior to initial matriculation* at W&L (AP, IB, college courses while in high school, etc.). Of the 28, no more than nine credits can be counted toward the requirements for a particular major with departmental approval; individual departments may set a limit of less than nine credits counted toward the major. In order to receive Washington and Lee credit, all documentation (official transcripts, official score reports, required W&L forms, etc) must be received by the University Registrar before the end of the first term in which the student is enrolled at W&L. (p. 73)
- **Spring-term Course/Credit Load:** The minimum academic load during the *four-week spring* term for each student is *four credits*. The maximum academic load is *five credits*. This means that, if schedules permit, students may take a regular four-credit course and one PE, or a four-credit course and a one-credit course, during a single spring term. No overloads or underloads are permitted. (p. 64) A few established spring term courses (for example, Washington Term in Politics or the English department's Study in Ireland) will continue to be offered to non-seniors in their traditional six-week, six-credit formats.
- **Important Spring Term Advice:** Members of the rising senior class need frequent and forceful reminders that they should not postpone their lab science or any other GE or PE requirements until their final term at Washington and Lee. The new spring term will have lots of exciting courses, but it will no longer be the safety net for seniors who have neglected graduation requirements.
- **Spring Option** will continue to be available to sophomores, juniors and seniors who have completed degree requirements.

Grade-Point Averages

- **New GPA Calculation Rules:** Beginning with Fall 2009, *A+ will be calculated as 4.00 points*. (p. 70)
- **GPA Required for Graduation:** To graduate, a student must achieve at least the following cumulative grade-point averages: *2.000* on all work attempted at Washington and Lee... (p. 50)
- **Academic Probation:** At the end of any term, the Committee on the Automatic Rule and Reinstatement places students on academic probation for the following term for failing to meet one or both of the following: 1. if the term grade-point average for any term falls *below 2.000* (that's just one C-minus in the spring); 2. if the cumulative grade-point average falls *below 2.000*. Students placed on academic probation are warned of their precarious position and advised to limit their participation in extracurricular activities during the period of their probation. Students whose probationary status is not removed by the end of the next term fall under the Automatic Rule. (p. 77)
- **Automatic Rule (Academic Suspension):** At the end of any academic term, the Committee on the Automatic Rule and Reinstatement suspends students who are on probation if they fail to meet either the term grade-point average or cumulative grade-point average standards described above. Suspension from the university severs all connections and privileges associated with being a student at Washington and Lee. The following also fall under the Automatic Rule: 1. *First-year students whose first-term grade-point average falls below 1.000*; or 2. Those students who have been reinstated on probation and who have failed to meet the grade-point standard required by the Committee on the Automatic Rule and Reinstatement; or 3. Those students withdrawing from the university during any term for reasons other than medical and having a cumulative grade-point average below *2.000*; or 4. At the end of the winter term, those students unable to remove their probationary status by attempting no more than *four* credits during the spring term. (p. 77)

Leave Of Absence

Undergraduate students may request a leave of absence from the University for a specific reason and for a specified period of time by petition to the Committee on the Automatic Rule and Reinstatement. *Medical leaves of absence* for undergraduate students may be requested through the Associate Dean of the College in consultation with the Dean of Students. *Academic leaves of absence*—normally granted only for the purpose of academic enrichment—may be requested using the application form available from the Office of the Dean of the College (or online at registrar.wlu.edu/forms/). *Students must not be on academic probation at the time of application*, and the application must be received no later than three weeks prior to the beginning of the term for which leave is requested. (p. 77)

Advising Planning Grid

A useful tool for keeping track of changes in graduation requirements is the recently updated Advising Planning Grid. The grid downloads from a link listed under Resources on the main page of the University Registrar registrar.wlu.edu/advising/AcademicPlanningGrid.doc.