

Motion for first reading: Upper-division credit requirement

April 15, 2020

The motion

The Augsburg University faculty endorses the proposal approved by AAC in November 2019, to require 36 upper-division credits for undergraduate students. Students entering Augsburg in Fall 2021 or thereafter must complete 36 upper-division credits for graduation. Substitutions of lower-division course work for upper-division requirements will be allowed, as is the case now, at the discretion of programs and departments, but such substitutions will not count toward the upper-division credit total.

Background and context

In Fall 2019, we learned that our current graduation requirements do not comply with the State of Minnesota's existing (or proposed) [degree standards](#). The Higher Learning Commission, our regional accreditor, also articulates a set of expectations for baccalaureate degrees in its list of [Assumed Practices](#).

AAC's reinstatement of the upper-division credit requirement was reported to the Faculty Senate early in the Spring semester, as is required when curricular proposals involve "major or fundamental changes." It is now being reported to the Faculty as a body. Endorsement by the Faculty is sought to bring Augsburg into alignment with State and Accreditor requirements.

To support this work, Augsburg will develop guidelines to distinguish upper-division from lower-division courses. Departments and programs may also develop criteria appropriate to the discipline and aligned with the University's guidelines to distinguish upper-division from lower-division coursework.

Substitutions of lower-division for upper-division requirements apply to both courses taken at Augsburg and those transferred from other institutions.