

General Education Task Force's Motion for Transparency in Program Requirements

All majors (and all concentrations within majors), as well as all minors and certificates, must have a program of study that clearly and honestly shows all coursework that must be successfully completed in order to finish that major, minor, or certificate. This requirement is to include acknowledgement of all prerequisites for courses that are required or optional in the major, minor, or certificate. These programs of study must be composed and approved prior to the finalization of the 25-26 catalog.

Note: As Foundational Math and Foundational Writing (or transfer equivalents) must be successfully completed by all students, these courses do not have to be listed in the program of study, unless the major, minor, or certificate requires Foundational Writing regardless of transfer or dual enrollment credit or requires a specific Foundational Math regardless of transfer or dual enrollment credit or any other Foundational Math course taken at Radford University.

Note: If a major, minor, or certificate requires a particular course to satisfy a WI requirement, then that must be included in the program of study.

Rationale: This new policy addresses the so-called "hidden requirements." While the catalog requires each course to note any and all prerequisites for the course, this rule is not always followed when program requirements are presented to students. So, in some cases when program requirements are presented to students, the requirements do not note that some courses that are required or are options for the program have prerequisites, resulting in "hidden requirements." These "hidden requirements" can cause confusion for students and can be impediments to student success. Fully disclosing any such "hidden requirements" will conduce to student success without requiring any curricular changes.

Logistics: There are two potential paths for departments to use when updating their majors, minors, and certificates to include any currently hidden requirements.

- If the major, minor, or certificate cannot be completed as written in the catalog without additional courses (i.e., prerequisites or corequisites), the department must submit a program revision proposal through Curriculog to update the major, minor, or certificate.
- If the major, minor, or certificate has electives or course options, that creates at least one path to completion without additional coursework that isn't listed, the department may choose this second path. Departments could add an * next to each course in the elective section that requires a prerequisite or corequisite which is not listed, and a "notes" section at the

bottom dictating what the * is for. This can be done with a memo signed by the chair and dean and emailed to the Office of the Registrar as an “editorial” change to the catalog. This option can only be used if the student can find at least one path through the curriculum without any additional coursework that isn’t listed.