

Motions of the 2026-2027 Faculty Senate

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Motion 26-27.01 Motion to Preserve the Existing Upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) Requirement

Faculty Senate supports maintaining the requirement that students have at least three credit hours of 300-level or above course work coded as Writing Intensive (WI) as a university requirement. This requirement is not part of the General Education Program, but curricular oversight of this requirement will be conducted by the General Education Committee.

Rationale:

As part of the REAL General Education Curriculum, all students who were not exempted from completing the REAL Curriculum were required to complete at least three credit hours of course work coded as Writing Intensive (WI) at the 300-level or above. That requirement will be in effect as part of general education for incoming students through the summer of 2027. This motion, if passed, will preserve that requirement, but as a university requirement, not as part of any general education curriculum.

Having an upper-level writing requirement for all students will be good for students. Being able to write well at an advanced level is a skill long considered appropriate for college graduates to have and is a skill beneficial for students in any professional and personal setting. While this skill has always been important, it may be now more important than ever given the impact of Large Language Models on all forms of writing.

Having an upper-level writing requirement has the support of many faculty members. On 1 May 2025, Faculty Senate debated a motion that would have eliminated the upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) requirement (see Motion 24-25.29) from the general education program. While it was noted that the requirement could impede the path to graduation, several senators spoke against the motion, specifically highlighting the need for students to have advanced writing skills. The motion to eliminate the requirement failed.

Maintaining this requirement by making it a university requirement beginning for students entering the university in Fall 2027 will not be difficult. Programs already have ways for their students to satisfy the requirement. All upper-level courses currently coded WI can remain so. The conditions for getting new upper-level courses coded as WI can remain as they are, and the learning goals and outcomes can remain as they are. (Those conditions, goals, and outcomes were defined in Motion 19-20.04.) Assessment plans can remain in place. And although it will be a university rather than a general education requirement, oversight of the requirement can be handled by the committee overseeing the general education program.

With all the apparatus needed to support a requirement that has the support of many faculty members, it is sensible to maintain a requirement that is a boon to student learning.

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Motion 26-27.02 Motion to Allow Waivers of the Find Your Place Requirement

The Faculty Senate approves allowing transfer students to receive a waiver from the Find Your Place requirement of the General Education Program. The following language detailing this waiver will be added to the catalog.

Find Your Place Requirement and Transfer Student Waiver

The Find Your Place requirement (RADF 101- University Seminar or an approved equivalent course) is a component of the General Education curriculum and is required of all first-time-in-college (FTIC) students, defined as students enrolling at the university following high school graduation (or equivalent) who have not previously attended another postsecondary institution after high school, excluding college credit earned through dual enrollment or other alternative credit earned while in high school

Transfer students, defined as students who have attended another postsecondary institution after high school graduation (or equivalent) and are admitted with transferable college coursework, who have earned at least 24 transferable semester credit hours from a regionally accredited institution prior to the start of their first term at Radford University, will receive a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. Transfer credit eligibility and applicability will be determined by the Office of the Registrar. Students granted a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement must still complete a minimum total of 30 credit hours of General Education coursework.

Credit earned through dual enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, CLEP, or other alternative credit mechanisms does not qualify an FTIC student for a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. FTIC students remain subject to the requirement unless exempt through completion of an associate degree.

Students who enter the university with a completed associate degree from a regionally accredited institution are exempt from the Find Your Place requirement. This exemption is consistent with university policies recognizing the completion of a full general education curriculum. Students admitted as FTIC students who have completed an associate degree are exempt from the requirement but are strongly encouraged to enroll in University Seminar (RADF 101).

In exceptional circumstances, a student may petition for a waiver of the Find Your Place requirement. Petitions must be initiated by the student's academic advisor and submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Curriculum for review. Waivers are granted on a case-by-case basis and are not automatic. Consideration will be given to the student's academic preparation and demonstrated likelihood of success without the course.

Rationale:

Since the introduction of the General Education Program, it has always been the intention that transfer students who arrive with significant levels of transfer credit could be exempt from the Find Your Place requirement of the General Education Program, which for most students will be

RADF 101. This motion establishes the circumstances under which a transfer student may get this exemption.

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Motion 26-27.03 Motion to Add Minimum Grade Requirement for Honors College Credit

Referred by the Curriculum Committee

MOTION:

The Faculty Senate recommends the addition of a minimum grade requirement for honors credit in both Honors College curricular tracks. The minimum grade recommended is a C. Passing grades below this C threshold for honors courses could still count toward other major, minor, general education, or other graduation requirements, but not in the honors curriculum. The text from the Honors College section of the 2026-27 University Academic Catalog is copied below with proposed deletions ~~struck through~~ and proposed additions in **red text**.

Requirements For Graduation as a Highlander Honors Scholar

To graduate from Radford University as a Highlander Honors Scholar, students must have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA in Radford coursework and complete at least 27 hours of honors credits in accordance with the requirements listed below: **All honors credits must be earned with a grade of C (or P for Pass-Fail courses).**

- 15 credit hours in any honors-designated courses
- 9 credit hours of work in any combination of study abroad, independent study or undergraduate research, honors contracts, HNRS 300, and HNRS 310.
- 3 credit hours in an honors capstone project (DEPT 488) in the major.
- The honors capstone project must be presented at a scholarly conference or other public venue, in conjunction with the submission of a written reflective critique of the work.
- A student may transfer a maximum of 12 hours of college honors courses into the College toward the Highlander Honors Scholar curriculum.

Requirements For Graduation with the Highlander Honors Distinction

To graduate from Radford University with the Highlander Honors Distinction, students must have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA in Radford coursework and complete at least 15 hours of honors credit in accordance with the requirements listed below: **All honors credits must be earned with a grade of C (or P for Pass-Fail courses).**

- 3 credit hours in any combination of HNRS 300, HNRS 310, or both.
- 9 credit hours of work in any combination of study abroad, independent study or undergraduate research, honors contracts, or honors courses.
- 3 credit hours in an honors capstone project (DEPT 488) in the major.

- The honors capstone project must be presented at a scholarly conference or other public venue, in conjunction with the submission of a written reflective critique of the work.
- A student may transfer a maximum of 6 hours of college honors courses into the College toward the Highlander Honors Distinction.

RATIONALE:

This recommendation is based on faculty expectations that honors-level work meet higher standards than that of non-honors work, but also a standard that encourages students to take intellectual risks when pursuing honors credits

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