



Washington Alpha of Phi Beta Kappa

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Notice for Undergraduates and Undergraduate Advisers

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ELECTION OF UNDERGRADUATES TO PHI BETA KAPPA

All undergraduates of distinguished scholarship with declared majors in any college of the University are eligible if they meet the requirements for election specified by the Chapter. These are designed to insure that the member has what the Phi Beta Kappa Society characterizes as a “liberal education”. The primary purpose of the Chapter is to recognize and honor excellent students in the College of Arts and Sciences without vocational bias; however, students in any college who also meet these “liberal” education standards are welcomed as members even as they achieve excellence in a professional program.

MINIMUM GRADE-POINT, CREDIT AND RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

An academic record, automatically provided to the UW Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa by the Registrar, is examined by the Board of Reviewers if the following minimum requirements are met:

Minimum Grade-Point Average	Minimum Credits		Date of Review
	Total	UW	
3.77	120	75	End of each academic quarter

Students with transfer credits must also satisfy this same average for their combined UW and transfer grades. Under ordinary circumstances, students will not be considered for election until the third quarter of their junior year, as determined by the Registrar.

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE

To be elected, students must satisfy a distribution requirement consisting of courses designated as fulfilling the University of Washington Areas of Knowledge requirement.

For students in the College of Arts and Sciences, the requirement is considered as met. For students in other colleges, including students with multiple majors, at least one of which is in another college, the requirement consists of 20 credits each in: (1) Visual, Literary, and Performing Arts; (2) Individuals and Societies; and (3) the Natural World, as listed at the above websites. Foreign Study/Extension/Independent Study/Advanced Placement Credit are also accepted under the same conditions. Credits from other institutions may be accepted if the UW course equivalent is clearly stated on the student’s transcript.

UPPER DIVISION LEVEL (UDL) REQUIREMENT

There is also an upper division “liberal” course requirement, designed to ensure the breadth of the student’s education. It consists of at least 8 credits of courses numbered 300 or above, of a liberal arts nature not closely related to the major. Normally, these courses will be in the distribution areas of the College of Arts and Sciences outside the area in which the major lies. (In the case of a double major, these courses may be related to one of the majors as long as they are not closely related to the other. If both majors are in the same distribution area, the UDL requirement should be met by courses in other distribution areas.) The Board of Reviewers may evaluate individual courses to determine whether the UDL requirement is being met.

Foreign language courses may be used to fulfill the UDL requirement under the following circumstances:

- Courses in foreign languages at the intermediate or second-year level are accepted if, and only if, the student has completed at least 6 credit hours in that language at that level.
- Introductory foreign language courses that have as a prerequisite a full year of study in a related language are accepted if, and only if, the student has completed at least 6 credit hours in that language (e.g., INDN 401 and INDN 402).
- Any courses in foreign languages beyond the intermediate or second-year level of study may apply to the UDL requirement.
- Foreign language credits earned via advanced placement are not accepted.

No courses required for the major are accepted (with the exception of double majors as indicated above), nor are courses of a vocational nature. Special topics and independent study courses may also be evaluated by the Board in the context of the student’s program. Transfer students not in the College of Arts and Sciences must satisfy the upper division requirement with courses taken at the UW. Courses must be taken for a numerical grade in order to count toward satisfaction of the UDL requirement.

GENERAL

At the discretion of the Board of Reviewers an exception may be made for a minor deviation from the above requirements.

ELECTION

The invitation to join the Phi Beta Kappa Society is approved at an Executive Committee meeting of the Washington Alpha Chapter.

INQUIRIES

Further inquiries should be addressed to the Executive Secretary or the President at the address, telephone number or e-mail address shown above.

Effective 1 January 2011