



**Faculty Senate**  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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[www.uaa.alaska.edu/governance/facultysenate](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/governance/facultysenate)

To: Provost and Vice Chancellor Elisha Baker,  
University of Alaska Anchorage

Fr: Kimberly Swiantek,  
UAA Governance Office

Re: General University Requirement Related to Catalog Year

On November 7, 2014 the Faculty Senate approved the memo, brought forward by the Registrar's Office, proposing that students may elect to graduate under the degree or certificate requirements of any catalog which was active during their completion period (five years for certificate and associate degrees; 7 years for baccalaureate and graduate degrees).

Please see the attached memo for more information.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

**Provost**

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Comments:

*Elisha Baker*

Elisha Baker, Provost and Vice Chancellor

*1/15/2015*  
Date

**Chancellor**

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Comments:

*Tom Case*

Tom Case, Chancellor

*1/15/2015*



**Enrollment Services**  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Data: September 4, 2014

To: Faculty Senate Executive Board  
Cc: Bear Baker, Provost  
Bruce Schultz, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs  
Eric Pedersen, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services

From: Lora Volden, University Registrar   
Susan Kalina, Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs 

Re: General University Requirement related to catalog year

*Students may elect to graduate under the requirements of the catalog in effect at time of formal acceptance to a certificate or degree program or the catalog in effect at the time of graduation. (General University Requirement)*

**Issue:**

In concurrence with best practice, the faculty at UAA engage in ongoing program improvements, including actively updating their curriculum in response to changes in their disciplines, results of their assessment processes, revised accreditation guidelines, and other factors. This is to be commended; however it calls into question the efficacy of the current policy related to a student's catalog year, quoted above.

Because students may choose only between the requirements at the time of declaring their major, i.e. the oldest set possible for them to choose or the requirements active at the time of graduation, i.e. the newest set, there are a whole set of issues that come about. Students who wish to utilize degree requirements that become effective after the student has been admitted find themselves unable to pick a catalog year or set of degree requirements that may fall somewhere in the middle of their time at UAA. Because students are given a new catalog year whenever they are formally admitted to a major, the current workaround for students is to "change their major" to something else (i.e. undeclared) and then change back to their original major- thereby putting themselves in the current catalog year. The other option is that the department and advisors submit numerous petitions to substitute current courses for previous degree requirements. This process is frustrating to students, staff, and faculty at minimum and creates an enormous amount of academic petitions and change of major forms.

**Proposal**

With the addition of DegreeWorks it is not difficult to perform audits and to advise students for any active catalog. Additionally DegreeWorks can be altered to reflect the student's chosen catalog year so that an accurate audit is reflected without the need to use "what if". Our proposal is to allow students to pick any catalog year within their five or seven year window for completion.

**Proposed Catalog Change**

*Students may elect to graduate under the degree/certificate requirements of any catalog which was active during their completion period (5 years certificate/associate; 7 years baccalaureate/graduate). (General University Requirement)*