

Summary of Graduate Academic Standards Changes

Ouachita Baptist University

April 2024

At a faculty meeting on April 30, 2024, the faculty **approved** the following graduate-level academic standards change.

Respectfully submitted,
The Graduate Council

<p>GRADUATE COUNCIL</p> <p>Undergraduates Taking Graduate Courses</p>	<p>Change</p> <p>The Master's Degree program in Curriculum and Instruction requests that qualified students be allowed to enroll in our graduate courses as juniors.</p> <p>Rationale</p> <p>Our collective aim is to empower every Ouachita student to maximize their time at our campus. To achieve this goal, we propose an adjustment that uses available slots in students' class schedules. By doing so, we enable them to enroll in graduate courses earlier, thereby completing more graduate-level hours before obtaining their Bachelor's Degree. This approach accelerates their path to earning a Master's Degree.</p> <p>The Arkansas Learns Act has ushered in a wave of transformative changes in education and teacher preparation. One pivotal change mandates a year-long school internship for all education degree programs, necessitating program adjustments to accommodate this extended internship. As we navigate these shifts, we offer a compelling solution: allowing qualified students to enroll in our online graduate courses during their junior and senior years.</p> <p>By embracing this approach, we not only address the challenges posed by the Arkansas Learns Act but also provide our students with an opportunity to proactively advance their education, making them more competitive and capable in their future careers. Together, we can foster a more agile and empowered student body, ensuring they make the most of their time at Ouachita.</p>
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	<p>Catalog Entry</p> <p>Undergraduates Taking Graduate Courses</p> <p>Subject to availability, undergraduate students may take up to six (6) hours of graduate credit. Such credit may be earned only in 5000-level courses and will be recorded on the graduate transcript. Students must have senior standing, a 3.0 GPA, and must receive permission from the dean, graduate program director, and the Associate Vice President of Graduate and Professional Studies. Prior to enrolling in any graduate course, undergraduate students are encouraged to contact Student Financial Services to determine how doing so will affect their account, including charges for tuition and fees and all forms of financial aid. A graduate course fee may be assessed for undergraduates taking graduate courses.</p> <p>Due to the unique nature of education programs, students pursuing a major or minor in the Michael D. Huckabee School of Education may be allowed to enroll with junior standing provided they meet the aforementioned criteria and receive the required permissions.</p>
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