

UWM Bachelor's Degree Requirements Policy

All bachelor's degree programs at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee are subject to the following requirements. The catalog text for the program should refer to or contain these requirements, but they still apply even if it does not.

1. **Residence Credit Requirement:** at minimum, 30 of the 120 credits earned for the bachelor's degree must be completed "in residence," that is, via credits earned from the institution itself regardless of class modality. Programs requesting an exception must provide an explanation (with their course information management system change form) that is accepted by UWM's governance bodies, the Universities of Wisconsin, and the Higher Learning Commission (for example, when some credits will be offered through a contractual arrangement with other accredited institutions, or through contractual relationships approved by the HLC). Individual programs may impose additional requirements, for example, the last 30 credits must be earned in residence, or some larger number, though not necessarily the last block.
2. **Credits:** Student must complete at least 120 credits. Individual programs may require more.
3. **Minimum GPA:** students must attain at least a 2.000 cumulative GPA. Individual programs may require a higher GPA on all credits, or all credits in the major, or specific courses, etc.
4. **University GERS:** Students must satisfy the UWM General Education Requirements.
5. **Other requirements:** Students must meet the graduation requirements of their major and school or college.

Rationale:

Recommendation of the Academic Program & Curriculum Committee to Create the UWM Bachelor's Degree Requirements Policy

Items 1 and 2 are required by UWM's institutional accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The HLC also requires universities to have a set of general education requirements (item 4). We are instituting this campus-wide policy to avoid the possibility of degree programs slipping through the approval process without one or more of these requirements.

As for Item 3, students are placed on academic probation with a GPA below 2.0 and dropped from UWM if they do not clear the probation, following the procedure in the University-wide Academic Action Policy. The registrar's office reports that their longstanding practice (for at least more than 20 years) is that students cannot graduate if they are not in good "academic standing," which requires a 2.0 CUM GPA. As we have been unable to locate a policy supporting this practice, we are including it here.

Item 5 was added because this is a new document. We want to make sure that students don't take items 1—4 as including all graduation requirements.