

## **Motion for Discussion**

The Faculty Senate moves to replace the upper division Oral (O) and Written (W) requirement with the requirement that each degree program must satisfy the following Communications Learning Outcomes within the degree program:

UAF undergraduates will demonstrate effective communication when they are able to:

- Explain disciplinary content using a variety of modes of communication, including oral and written communication.
- Communicate to audiences in the discipline using appropriate disciplinary conventions.
- Translate disciplinary content to audiences outside the discipline as appropriate, making disciplinary knowledge relevant to broader communities.
- Integrate feedback from others to enhance or revise communication.

Each baccalaureate degree program must submit a Communications Plan that demonstrates how students will achieve each of the learning outcomes as part of the requirements of the major or degree program. Not all courses or requirements need to support every outcome; however, all the outcomes must be met by the completion of the degree.

Implementation timeline for transition:

1. Department's will submit Communications Plans along with their Student Learning Outcomes Plans submitted April 2016.
2. Plans will be reviewed by the College or School's Academic Council.
3. During AY 2016/17 Departments will make any necessary changes to implement their plan.
4. Plans will be in place and implemented by Fall 2017.
5. Existing O and W designators will remain in place (if appropriate) for a period of 2 years from Fall 2017 to facilitate students under catalogs with O/W requirements.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2017

RATIONALE: The GERC committee and Curricular Affairs, as part of their work to revise UAF's core requirements, propose replacing the current W/O designators with a requirement that students achieve the Communications Learning Outcomes that are integrated into each baccalaureate degree program and major.

The responsibility for ensuring that students achieve these Communications Learning Outcomes is being moved from the University level (via specific O and W courses) to the department level (via the requirements of the degree programs), and from a specific degree requirement (taking two Ws and one O) to a requirement that is achieved by the student completing the degree requirements associated with their program.