

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 and initially approved by the College or School's Curricular Review Committee, Academic Council, or other committee as appropriate and then continuously reviewed as part of the Student Learning Outcome Plan review process.
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.

Comment [1]: How about we replace, "moves" with "recommends?" This will ensure consistency with "Department Chair Policy" where the senate recommends only and does not require. This will empower the departments to do as they choose to.

Comment [2]: In light of the change to "recommends", I would propose that the language to be, "If a baccalaureate degree program chooses to replace.....then they must submit...."

Comment [3]: "Departments" needs no apostrophe here.

Comment [4]: This isn't a sentence. Please fix grammar.

On a more substantive note, I am unclear what you mean by "SLO plans?" and why they are to be submitted by April 2016. This needs to be made a lot more clear. On the Provost's website, there is nothing about an April 2016 deadline (though SLOA reports are due in May) and I don't think DMS is revising its SLOA plan at the moment.

My overall comment is that I don't understand what this bullet point means and/or entails.

Comment [5]: This one is a moot point with the proposed modification.