

Revision of the Class Standing/Classification System and Time to Declare a Major

*Proposed by Jerry E. Hogle, Interim Vice President for Instruction, 2/26/08;
Approved by the Academic Programs and Curriculum/Policies Subcommittees, 4/8/08;
Undergraduate Council, 4/22/08; Academic Deans, 5/23/08; Team Provost, 6/2/08;
Instruction & Curriculum Policy Committee, 9/10/08; Faculty Senate, 10/6/08.*

Rationale for the Revision:

- There is evidence that full time students are more academically successful when they take 15-18 units per semester than when they take 12-14 units. Higher class standing cutoffs (e.g., increased from 25 units to 30 for sophomore standing) will encourage students to enroll in at least 15 units each semester. **Note:** In some cases it may be advantageous for full-time students to enroll in fewer than 15 units per semester. The only penalty for this will be to delay reaching a higher standing.
- By completing 15 or more units per semester, students pursuing degree programs that require 120 units should complete a quarter of their degree requirements each year and will be more likely to graduate in four years.
- Since the deadline for declaring a major is connected to junior standing, the deadline for declaring a major will be changed with the Classification System. Undeclared students and those without a major in a degree program will have the benefit of earning an additional 4 units before they are required to declare a major in a degree program.
- Because the current class standing system differs by college, students sometimes change classification when they declare a new major in another college. Establishing a university-wide class standing system eliminates this problem.
- When students enroll for 15 or more units per semester, the University is awarded more state funding at the 22:1 ratio—a primary source of financial support for faculty positions.

Revised Class Standing/Classification System (changes are in bold print):

(see the current system in the 2008 Catalog, <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2008-09/policies/enrpol.htm#class>)

Undergraduates need to earn the following minimum number of units to attain the next higher classification:

- **30 units for Sophomore Standing**
- **60 units for Junior Standing**
- **90 units for Senior Standing**

A student's class standing does not necessarily correspond to the number of semesters or units required to complete all degree requirements, as some degree programs require more than 120 units. See the [Academic Program Requirements Reports \(APRRs\)](#) for the minimum number of units for each UA undergraduate degree program.

Revised Time to Declare a Major for Undecided Students, No Major Declared/Selected:

(see the current statement in the 2008 Catalog, <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2008-09/dept/UNDx.shtml>)

*Students must declare a major **in a degree program prior to earning 60 units** or before attaining junior standing. Incoming transfer students with a minimum of **60 transferable units** have one semester at the University before they need to declare a major in a degree program.*

Effective semester:

Students will be given their new classification (if any) and notified about their change in status prior to registration for Summer 2009, which begins in February 2009. The new class standings and time to declare a major will apply to all undergraduate students, regardless of catalog year.