

Enrollment

Connections

Connections is a web portal that provides access to Webster's online services. The student's Connections ID and password gives access to Webster e-mail, wireless internet, FTP, and online course services, groups, calendars and announcements. It provides customizable content in the form of tabs, channels, and news feeds. Connections also provides access to a student's biographical information, grades and registration services. For all other IT policies, including the University Email Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Wireless Network Policy, Data Encryption Policy, and other guidelines, visit: <http://www.webster.edu/technology/references/>.

Registration

Students should work in collaboration with their academic advisor to determine their courses and degree progression. Registration is open three times a year: for the Fall 1 and 2 terms, the Summer term and the Spring 1 and 2 terms. For specific dates, please consult the Academic Calendar.

- New graduate students are required to meet with an academic advisor to review degree requirements, create a degree plan, and coordinate initial registration.
- Current graduate students are encouraged to self-register through the Student Academic Services tab in Connections. Students may also contact an advisor for registration assistance. Some students may be required to see an advisor prior to registration.
- Course registration should be completed prior to the official term start date. For online classes, registration must be complete by the Friday prior to the official term start date. For registrations after the start of the term, refer to the Add/Drop/Withdraw procedures.
- Published course schedules are subject to change.

Course Load Guidelines

The minimum course load is 1-3 credit hours per term, and is considered part-time. The maximum course load is 7.5 credit hours per term or 10.5 credit hours in a 16-week course, and is considered full-time. A credit hour overload is anything beyond 7.5 credit hours per term. Students may request permission from their academic advisor for a credit hour overload using the following criteria:

- Students have successfully completed 12 hours toward degree program.
- Students have demonstrated academic success in full-time graduate coursework. Success is defined by earning grades of B or better in both courses in the term.
- Students are in good academic standing.
- Students are not in his/her final term.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students with disabilities may be approved for an adjustment in full-time student load. Requests for a reduced load for students in the St. Louis area or students pursuing online degrees are made to the Academic ADA Coordinator or, in the Academic ADA Coordinator's absence, the Director of the Academic Resource Center. Students attending campuses or sites outside the St. Louis area should contact their site directors or staff designees for these and other ADA requests.

Students utilizing federal financial aid, or other aid programs, should consult with the appropriate financial counselor regarding minimum credit hour requirements for eligibility.

This policy applies to all students except those studying in the School of Education. For information regarding School of Education policy on course load guidelines, please see the School of Education's main page of the catalog.

All student athletes have academic requirements they must meet in order to be eligible for competition at Webster University. For specific requirements, refer to the Student-Athlete Handbook.

Requisite Introductory Course

Most graduate programs have a requisite introductory course typically numbered 5000. The introductory course is mandatory if the student has no academic experience in the area and must be completed prior to enrolling in other required courses in the program.

If students can demonstrate academic proficiency, a request for a waiver of the introductory requisite course may be made to the academic advisor who will seek approval. Students who are granted a waiver of the introductory requisite course in the declared major may not enroll in that course for elective credit after the initial term. A waiver does not change the credit hours required for completion of the degree.

When students select an elective course in another major, the student should enroll in the introductory requisite course if they do not have the academic background.

A maximum of three introductory requisite courses outside a student's declared major(s) may be applied as elective credit toward that graduate degree program.

Professional Seminars

Professional seminars are 1-credit-hour courses typically numbered as 5500 courses that examine contemporary issues. Courses may be repeated for credit if content differs. Students are limited to a total of three credit hours of professional seminars.

Final Capstone Course

Most graduate majors have a required culminating course or experience, which demonstrates mastery in his/her area of study. These culminating experiences may be called a capstone course, but could also be referred to as an integrated studies course, thesis, or project and are typically listed at the 6000 level. A thesis or project, where allowed or required, may meet requirements for the capstone course. Students should consult with an academic advisor to understand their options.

Core courses in the declared major must be completed prior to the student's enrollment in a capstone, integrated studies course, thesis or project.

Graduate Level Courses

Courses numbered 5000 and above are graduate-level courses. With prior approval, a maximum of 6 credit hours of 4000 courses (with a B- or better) from Webster University can be applied to a graduate degree.

An upper-division undergraduate student may enroll in graduate courses with written permission of his or her advisor.

Undergraduate students who take 4000- or 5000-level courses to complete an undergraduate degree may not apply these courses

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to meet credit-hour requirements for a graduate degree, except in approved combined or joint degree programs.

Undergraduate students taking graduate level courses are subject to graduate academic policy including transfer of credit, and academic warning, probation and dismissal.

Add/Drop/Withdraw Procedures

ADD: Students may add a course up to the day of the first meeting of the class through their Connections account or with their academic advisor. If an exception is being requested to add a course after the first course meeting, the student must seek permission of the instructor in consultation with an academic advisor. If approved, the academic advisor will process the registration.

For online courses, students may add a course up to the Friday prior to the first day of classes through their Connections account or with their academic advisor. If an exception is being requested to add a course during the first week, the student must contact the Online Learning Center for instructor approval. If approved, the Online Learning Center will process the registration.

DROP: Students may drop a course through Friday of the second week of an eight- or nine-week course. Students may drop online through their Connections account or may contact an academic advisor. Informing the course instructor is not sufficient notice for dropping a course. Non-standard courses may follow a variable drop schedule; contact an academic advisor. The University reserves the right to drop students who do not attend class the first week of the term/semester. Students who do not log into their online class prior to the drop deadline will be dropped from the course.

CHANGING SECTIONS: To change from one section of a course to another section of the same class, students must drop and add the courses during the drop/add period. Changing a section without following these procedures may result in no credit being awarded and potential probation or dismissal.

WITHDRAW: Students may withdraw from a course through Friday of the sixth week of an eight- or nine-week term. Students may withdraw online through their Connections account or may contact an academic advisor. A grade of W will be recorded for the course on the academic record and transcript. Informing the course instructor is not sufficient notice to withdraw from a course, and may result in a WF, and is subject to standard academic policies.

Withdrawals are not allowed after the sixth week of an eight- or nine-week course unless there are documented extenuating circumstances. Students should meet with their academic advisor to initiate a review. Late withdrawals are not approved for poor academic performance.

For information on our refund policy following withdrawals, please visit Tuition, Fees and Refunds.

Term and Class Schedule

The graduate academic calendar consists of five 8-week or 9-week terms per year: Summer, Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, and Spring 2. Programs in the Walker School of Business & Technology, the School of Communications, and the College of Arts & Sciences (with the exception of the MSN), follow the 9-week term calendar. Programs in the School of Education and the Leigh Gerding College of Fine Arts, as well as the MSN program, follow the 8-week term calendar. Terms at international campuses and some

U.S. locations may vary. Some graduate courses may be offered on alternative schedules. Consult the academic calendar and course schedules or details.

Course Attendance

Students are expected to actively participate in all of their scheduled courses.

Advancement to Candidacy

Advancement to Candidacy signifies that a student has completed certain academic requirements and is ready to move forward to the next stages of his or her degree program. Advancement to Candidacy varies by degree program. The degree program page list specific requirements.

This page was modified on 30 August 2017.

Please see the Graduate Catalog Addendum to view changes that were made.