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This document is an extensive but not comprehensive overview of current minimum grade requirements for undergraduates at UD prescribed by the university, by the various colleges, or by individual departments. Its purpose is to demonstrate that requiring all our undergraduates to earn grades of C- or better in the 100- and 200-level courses used to satisfy prerequisite or departmental graduation requirements would be not a radical innovation, but a logical extension of existing policies.

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE MINIMUM GRADE REQUIREMENTS

All UD undergraduates are currently required to earn a **minimum grade of C-** in the following courses:

**ENGL 110** (because we think it's important that our undergraduates be able to write effectively).

The 4 courses for the new **Group A-B-C-D breadth requirements**.

(Also in the 12 courses for the **College of A&S Group A-B-C-D breadth requirements**.)

The **intradepartmental courses** used to satisfy requirements for (almost) all **minors**.

But what about **majors**? Shouldn't students **majoring** in a subject be expected to have at least as good an understanding of the introductory material in 100- and 200-level courses as do students pursuing only a **minor**?

And how can an undergraduate who could earn only a **D** in a 100- or 200-level course be expected to be able to earn decent grades in higher-level courses for which the lower-level course is a **prerequisite**?

Motivated by considerations such as these, there already are widespread minimum grade requirements (typically **C-** or better) imposed by the various colleges and departments at UD. Some representative examples are listed on the following pages, which I have excerpted from the *Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog*. Phrases and sentences enclosed within quotation marks are direct quotes from the Catalog. This list is extensive, but not comprehensive.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### College-wide Requirements:

“**Second Writing Requirement** (minimum grade C-)”

For a **B.A. degree in any department**, “a [minimum] grade of C- is required in all major courses.”

“A minimum grade of C- is normally required in all courses for a **minor**.”

Some departments which offer a **B.S.** as well as a B.A. also have similar or even stronger requirements, such as:

### Biological Sciences

“A grade of C- or better must be obtained in all biology courses that are used to satisfy the requirements for the Biological Sciences BA, BS, and Biological Sciences Education degrees.”

Additionally, a student who is pursuing a B.S. must have a “3.0 GPA in prerequisite courses” (BISC 207-208, CHEM 103-104, CHEM 321, MATH 241).

### Mathematical Sciences

“A grade of C- or better is required for major courses and related work.”

### Psychology

“A grade of C- or better is required in all BISC, CHEM, PHYS, MATH, CISC, and PSYC courses.”

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

This college allows its departments to set their own minimum grade standards. Two have done so.

### Chemical Engineering

“In general students must have a minimum grade of C- in all chemical engineering prerequisite courses to qualify for admission to the next course.”

### Civil and Environmental Engineering

For Civil Engineering, minimum grades of C- in MATH 241-242, CHEM 103, and PHYS 207.

For Environmental Engineering, minimum grades of C- in MATH 243, CHEM 111-112, PHYS 207, and several more MATH and Engineering courses.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

### **Accounting and Management Information Systems**

“Candidates for a B.S. degree must . . . achieve at least a C- in specified business, finance, economics, and accounting courses” (ECON 151-152 plus many other higher-level courses).

### **Business Administration**

“Each candidate for a degree must . . . achieve at least a C- in specified business, finance, accounting, math and economics courses” (ECON 151-152, MATH 221-201-202 plus many other higher-level courses).

### **Economics**

Minimum grade of C- in one or two MATH courses plus ECON 151-152 and several higher-level ECON courses.

### **Finance**

“To earn a degree in Finance, one must . . . achieve at least a C- in specified business, finance, accounting, and economics courses” (MATH 221, 230, 201-202, ECON 151-152 plus many other higher-level courses).

## COLLEGE OF HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

### **School of Education**

“A grade of C- or better is required in all of the courses” in the areas of *General Studies* (natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences, etc.), *K-6 licensure*, and the *2nd licensure area* for middle-school teaching.

### **Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management**

“All HRIM courses require a minimum grade of C-.”

## **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Food Science and Technology**

“A minimum grade of C- must be achieved for credits to count toward the fulfillment of 36 credits in FOSC.”

### **Engineering Technology**

“A student must attain at least a 2.0 average in ETGE courses and must earn at least a C- in all prerequisite courses to qualify for admission to the next course.”

### **Entomology and Wildlife Ecology**

“A minimum grade of C- is required for all ENWC credits used to satisfy departmental requirements.”

### **Statistics**

“A grade of C- or better is required for all major courses and related work.”

## **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Some of the departments in this college have very strict minimum grade requirements.

### **Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences**

Minimum grades of C- in about 60 credits of both Major and Concentration Requirements, both within and outside the department.

### **Medical Technology**

“A minimum grade of C- is required in each MEDT course in the Medical Technology major. . . . A student who earns a grade lower than C- in a medical technology course must repeat the course and achieve a grade of at least C- before enrolling in any medical technology course which has the prior course as a prerequisite. . . . Further, students who earn a grade lower than C- in more than one medical technology course will not be permitted to continue in the major.”

### **Nursing**

“A student who earns a grade lower than C- in a nursing course must repeat the course and achieve a grade of at least C- before enrolling in a more advanced nursing course. . . . Students who earn a grade lower than C- in more than one nursing course will not be permitted to continue in the program.”