

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL**

concerning

**EXTENSION OF CONTINUATION REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE MAJOR IN KINESIOLOGY THROUGH  
THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR**

(Approved by the Rules Committee acting on behalf of the Faculty Senate, May 25, 2018)

Presented at the  
779<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
September 13, 2018

**ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL**

Neal Abraham, Wesley Autio, Martha Baker, Carol Barr, Brian Beck, William Brown, Allison Butler, D. Anthony Butterfield, Marcy Clark, Catherine Dimmitt, Sharon Domier, Wei Fan, Diane Flaherty, Laura Francis, Mark Guerber, Jennifer Heuer, Maeve Howett, Patrick Kelly, Kathryn Lachman, Nancy Lamb, Meredith Lind, Linda Lowry, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Roberta Marvin, Ernest May, David Morin, Ruthann Paradise, Jennifer Randall, MJ Peterson, Linda Shea, *Chair*, Kelly Smiaroski, Gregg Strehorn, Patrick Sullivan, Nancy Symmes, Jack Wileden, Rebecca Woodland, Kate Woodmansee, Clare McGladrigan, and Colleen Coakley

**ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL**

The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of this proposal.

*Please describe your proposal*

**Background**

Last year, the Faculty Senate adopted a policy that allows departments to establish requirements for students to continue in a major (Sen. Doc. No. 12-041). As the policy document notes:

“... in certain circumstances, a pattern may develop in which students defer or struggle with work appropriately mastered early in the curriculum, and as a result reach the upper division without a reasonable likelihood of success in earning a degree in that major. In such cases it may be in the interests of both students and the program to establish a formal process to determine at an earlier point whether a student should continue in the major or transfer to another degree program ... The primary basis for consideration of a continuation requirement is clear evidence that a substantial proportion of majors are not making timely progress in meeting degree

requirements because of a failure to meet necessary standards in prerequisite or foundational coursework, and that this creates an undue burden for the program and other students. This requires the program to demonstrate 1) that course grades or other standards are directly tied to successful completion of upper- division requirements; 2) that significant numbers of students are reaching the upper division unprepared to complete degree requirements in a timely manner; and 3) that this situation imposes an unreasonable resource burden on the program."

The Department of Kinesiology is proposing to establish a continuation requirement for its undergraduate major. The proposed requirement is that students must complete the courses MATH 127, MATH 128, PHYSIC 131/133, CHEM 111 by the end of the third semester in the major, with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher in the set of courses. Students who do not meet the requirement will be removed from the Kinesiology major and will work with advisors to transfer into another major. In discussions with the AMC, the department noted that its major has long had a significant number of students who repeatedly need to re-take courses, and either fail to graduate or take a very long time to meet graduation requirements. This places a burden on departmental advising and teaching resources. The four introductory courses proposed for the continuation requirement are prerequisites for advanced work in Kinesiology. By comparing students' grades in those courses with rates of progress through the program, the department found that whether or not a student satisfied the proposed requirement was a good indicator of whether or not the student would be able to complete the major in a timely manner. By early identification of students who are likely to struggle in Kinesiology, the department expects higher rates of retention and academic success to result both for those students as they transfer to a more appropriate degree program, and for the students who continue in Kinesiology.

The department has implemented a system to track and advise students in their first three semesters on their progress in meeting the continuation requirements. The department and the School of Public Health and Health Sciences will continue to provide advising support to help students who are discontinued from Kinesiology identify an appropriate new major.

These requirements were approved in 2013. This action will extend them through academic year 2020-2021.

**MOTION:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Extension of Continuation Requirements for the Major in Kinesiology through the 2020-21 Academic Year, as presented in Sen. 01-19  
Doc. No. 13-035A.

**FORM RR**

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

**PROGRAM REVISION APPROVAL FORM**

**50 COPIES REQUIRED**

**PROGRAM TITLE:** The Department of Kinesiology Academic Major Continuation Policy

**PLEASE CHECK:** GRADUATE  UNDERGRADUATE

**DEPARTMENT:** Kinesiology **HEAD/CHAIR:** Dr. Patty Freedson

**SCHOOL OR COLLEGE:** Public Health & Health Sciences **DEAN:** Dr. Marjorie Aelion

**Submission Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Proposed Starting Date:** Beginning of Summer Term 2013

**I. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT**

**A. Describe the Proposal.**

To remain a Kinesiology major, we propose: a) Kinesiology students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher in the courses listed below; b) These courses must be completed by the end of the third semester as a Kinesiology major. This requirement also applies to both internal and external transfer students.

1. Math 127 – Calculus I or an equivalent course
2. Math 128 – Calculus II or an equivalent course
3. Physics 131/133 or an equivalent course
4. Chemistry 111 or an equivalent course

Students who do not complete all of these courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or greater in the first three semesters in the major will be removed from the Kinesiology major and advised into another undergraduate major on campus. The rationale for these requirements is that students with a cumulative GPA below 2.5 in the above courses have to repeat several courses which slows their academic progress and these students take 11 semesters to graduate (see Table below).

Overall GPA in courses listed above	Number of Students and Course Repeats	# of Terms Needed to Graduate
Less than 2.5	122 Students = 258 Course Repeats	11
Overall GPA in Introductory courses from 2.50 – 3.0	90 Students = 30 Course Repeats	
From 3.0 – 4.0	175 Students = 0 Course Repeats	

We are requesting that this Continuation Policy be approved in order to increase the probability that our students will achieve the grades that are required for academic success in the science-intensive Kinesiology major. This Continuation Policy will also allow students to experience the rigors of this major before making a long-term commitment to pursuing it. A strong Advising Support Staff is in place to assist those students who do not meet these requirements. The Advising Support Staff will work with students to examine their options and decide on a course of action such as utilizing the University’s Repeat Course Policy or seeking a major where

they can achieve academic success, remain at the University, and be well-prepared to pursue future aspirations and goals.

**B. Provide a brief overview of the process for developing the Proposal.**

The Faculty in the Department of Kinesiology contributed to the development of this proposal. Additionally we consulted with Carol Barr and Bryan Harvey who supported this approach and recommended that we develop this Continuation Policy Plan.

**II. PURPOSE AND GOALS**

Describe the Proposal's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills to be acquired.

The Continuation Policy Program is designed to identify those students who demonstrate academic success in the Kinesiology preparatory courses. The result is expected to be higher rates of retention and academic success as they matriculate toward the undergraduate degree in Kinesiology. We will develop a system to track students to determine progress towards meeting these performance-based criteria.

**III. RESOURCES**

The Kinesiology Department has recently received additional support for Undergraduate Student advising from The Dean of the School of Public Health and Health Sciences and the Chair of the Department of Kinesiology. The expanded Advising Support Staff has been in place since 7/1/11.

As a result, the changes described in this Proposal should not require any additional resources.