Proposed Revisions to AR 13 and AR 20 and Creation of Degrees with Distinction, Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow Honor Distinction and Dissertation/Thesis Notation

The following have been approved by the Academic Regulations Committee and are forwarded to the Faculty Senate for approval. Current Academic Regulations are available online at http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=75. Proposed additions are indicated by bolded red text and proposed deletions are shown as red strike-through text.

AR 13. Withdrawal From the University – proposal would add a new section

d. Undergraduate Planned Educational Leave Program. The Undergraduate Planned Educational Leave Program (PELP) is a voluntary, temporary, planned interruption or pause in a student’s regular, full-time education. Its purpose is to enhance an undergraduate student’s prospect of successful completion of their academic program. The PELP provides one opportunity¹ for a student to arrange a voluntary absence for as many as six consecutive regular academic terms (not including the summer terms). The PELP is designed to allow a student to pursue other activities that will assist them in clarifying their educational goals, such as job opportunities and experiences away from campus, military deployment, time to resolve personal or medical problems, or other similar pursuits.

The PELP allows an undergraduate student to temporarily suspend their academic work for a period of time (in accordance with AR 13a, 13b, and 13c above), and resume their studies with minimal procedural difficulties.

The PELP $25 non-refundable application fee allows an undergraduate student to maintain their official standing as a student at OSU and reserves the student’s right to keep their original academic catalog² active during their absence. Beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year, all OSU undergraduate students³ are eligible to request leave through the PELP. The University reserves the right to consider a student’s current academic standing and any existing student conduct issues prior to approving the voluntary PELP leave request.

Students who withdraw from OSU prior to the 2011-2012 academic year and who are away from campus for four or more consecutive regular academic terms (not including summer terms) must re-enroll with OSU to re-establish their relationship as an OSU student and their academic catalog will be reset to the academic year they return to OSU.

¹ Military Deployments are an exception to this limitation. All military personnel who are deployed for military service may submit a voluntary leave request for each deployment.

² In accordance with the University’s catalog policy on the inside cover of the General Catalog.

³ The PELP begins with the 2011-2012 academic year (Summer 2011). Any former OSU students who attended OSU prior to the 2011-2012 academic year and have been absent for four or more consecutive regular academic terms will be held to OSU’s prior policy that resets the academic catalog to the catalog in effect at the time they return to OSU.
**Transcript Notation**
A notation of the dates of any approved leave will be indicated on each student’s official transcript.

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**AR 20 Repeated Courses**

*Rationale:* AR 20 Repeated Courses had been reviewed and approved in 2008. However, it subsequently became clear that the various departments and colleges across OSU were following local practices with respect to how multiple repeats of a single course was being utilized to clear degree requirements. After substantive discussion, it was moved and unanimously approved to alter AR 20 in the following manner.

“If a student repeats an Oregon State University course, the grade from each attempt will appear on the student’s academic record but only the second attempt will count toward the student’s institutional credits, requirements, and grade point average. An academic unit may, however, include subsequent attempts after the second attempt in their calculation and clearance to meet of unit individual course degree requirements and degree grade point average associated with the baccalaureate core/majors/options/minors/ certificates/endorsements. A course may not be repeated on an S/U basis if it was taken previously on a normal grade basis.”

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**Proposal for Undergraduate Degrees with Distinction**

*Rationale:* This is a proposal to create Undergraduate Degrees with Distinction.

Graduates who have completed at least ninety credits at OSU or sixty upper division credits at OSU, and who have an OSU cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, are awarded an OSU degree with distinction as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Distinction</th>
<th>OSU GPA Range</th>
<th>Graduation Honor Cord Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cum Laude</td>
<td>3.50–3.69</td>
<td>Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magna Cum Laude</td>
<td>3.70–3.84</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summa Cum Laude</td>
<td>3.85–4.00</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These distinctions are noted on diplomas.
Proposal for an Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow Honor Distinction

Oregon State University recognizes significant engagement and accomplishment in undergraduate research and the arts by awarding an honor distinction of “Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow” to students of all majors upon completion of a significant research or creative arts experience under faculty mentorship. “Research” here is intended to encompass modes of scholarship and inquiry as they are variously practiced and defined in OSU’s academic disciplines. Students completing significant creative projects in the arts may receive the honorary distinction “Undergraduate Arts Fellow.” The distinction will be noted on the student’s transcript, and the student will receive a blue honor cord to be worn at graduation ceremonies.

To qualify for the Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow distinction:

1) Students must demonstrate involvement in all major phases of their project including conception, implementation, and presentation. This involvement will generally consist of sustained work over multiple quarters resulting in an original contribution relative to the discipline.

2) The project presentation must be to an audience that extends beyond the immediate research group or creative context, for example at a public performance, departmental symposium, the annual Celebration of Undergraduate Excellence, a professional meeting, or through publication in a student or professional journal.

3) Evidence of the presentation must be submitted with the final honorary distinction application and deposited into the OSU Scholars Archive.

4) A member of the OSU Graduate Faculty must endorse the application, verifying satisfaction of the criteria described above.

To apply for the distinction students should complete the OSU Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow Honor Distinction Application, which will be made available on the Oregon State Undergraduate Research Framework web site (http://oregonstate.edu/students/research/). The application includes a detailed narrative description of the project and the student’s involvement in specific research/creative tasks, a timeline of the student’s project engagement, details of the public presentation, and the Graduate Faculty member’s endorsement. Applications are submitted to the head advisor in the students’ major college, who will sign the application and transmit to the Office of the Registrar for processing. Applications may be submitted at any time during the undergraduate’s career but no later than three weeks prior to a student’s anticipated graduation date.
Proposal for a Dissertation/Thesis

Rationale: Upon conclusion of an academic program, the students’ dissertation/thesis would become a transcriptable event.

If approved, the below legislation would be added to the 2011-2012 Oregon State University General Catalog:

Upon completion and acceptance of a dissertation/thesis at the conclusion of a program of study, the dissertation/thesis will be recorded on a student’s transcript, notating the title and term/year that the dissertation/thesis was accepted by the University.