

**From:** AVCDUE Sawrey  
**Sent:** Friday, December 04, 2015 11:49 AM  
**To:** 'gc-deans-l@ucsd.edu'; [gc-chairs-l@ucsd.edu](mailto:gc-chairs-l@ucsd.edu)  
**Cc:** [council-ug-ed-l@mailman.ucsd.edu](mailto:council-ug-ed-l@mailman.ucsd.edu); 'gc-deptmso-l@ucsd.edu'; Subramani, Suresh (EVC); Johnson, Kathleen D.; Continetti, Robert; Rodriguez, Ray; Kaustuv Roy  
**Subject:** Major Requirements

Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and  
Dean of Undergraduate Education

December 4, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Beginning in November 2013, our campus embarked on a review of curricula with an eye to reduce total major requirements (upper and lower division) to 120 units, (facilitating the path to a 4-year graduation), with 60 additional units allocated to meeting GE requirements, some of which also count toward the major. Many departments were already at 48 upper division units, the minimum as stipulated in Academic Senate Regulation 600.A.1., and many others reviewed and reduced their requirements. Quite a few remain above 120 units, and some are over 140 units.

As most of you know, the 2015-16 California state budget agreement with UC includes a set of Budget Framework Initiatives (BFI) that each campus must meet within the next two years. Most of these are well underway, led by the administration and the Academic Senate. One of the BFIs that is yet to be completed and that involves almost every department and undergraduate program is the review of major requirements. This initiative is modeled after UCLA's Challenge 45 – which called for undergraduate programs to reduce their upper division unit requirement to 45, if at all possible (attachment 1). At UC San Diego, this would correspond to 48 units, in consonance with our Senate regulations and with our courses typically being 4 units each.

What is being requested now?

Departments and programs with majors listed among the Top 75% on campus (attachment 2) must review their upper division requirements, streamline them where possible, and complete the template (a link to a website will be provided later) certifying what was done. If the department cannot reduce the upper division requirements to 48 units, a careful justification must be provided.

All templates should be returned to me at [avcdue@ucsd.edu](mailto:avcdue@ucsd.edu).

Which departments/programs must comply?

- Departments in the Top 75% that require only 48 upper division units need only complete the template. No review is required.
- Those departments, regardless of unit requirements, that have done a *complete* curricular review since 2009-10, should complete the template. No further review is required.
- All remaining departments with majors among the Top 75% must carry out a review of their upper division curricula, with an eye toward reduction. Then a template should be completed.

What is the timeline?

In order to meet the Governor's Office deadlines, our goals are to report to UCOP as follows:

March 15, 2016	30% of our majors should be reviewed and changed.
August 15, 2016	Review of 60% of our majors should be completed.
November 15, 2016	All 75% of the top majors should have been reviewed. Some changes may still require Senate approval.

I assure you that the UCOP, the Chancellor, Executive Vice Chancellor, and I all understand the amount of work being requested of you. Please feel free to call on my office with questions or issues, as they arise. The overall goal of providing a quality UC degree in a timely manner is one we all can applaud.

Thank you for all for the efforts of your faculty and staff to both comply with the UC-California State agreement, and serve our students.

Sincerely,

Barbara

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