



Campus Administrative Policy

Policy Title: Four Year Graduation Guarantee

Policy Number: 7023 Functional Area: **Student Affairs**

Effective: ~~Effective: July 1, 2011~~ April 1, 2020 (Pending)
Date Last Amended/Reviewed: ~~July 1, 2011~~ May 25, 2021
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Supersedes: Four Year Graduation Guarantee (~~July 1, 2011~~ March 4, 2004)

Approved by: ~~Roderick Nairn~~
~~Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs~~ Dorothy A. Horrell
~~Chancellor, University of Colorado Denver~~

Prepared by: ~~Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs~~ Registrar ~~Provost's Office~~

Reviewing Office: Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Responsible Officer: Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Applies to: University of Colorado Denver

A. INTRODUCTION

The University of Colorado Denver has defined the conditions under which an undergraduate student will be guaranteed to graduate in four years, which is contained in this policy. More information is available through the undergraduate advising offices for each college and the major program offices. CU Denver has five seven colleges/schools in which this guarantee applies:

- Business School
- College of Architecture and Planning
- College of Arts and Media
- College of Engineering, Design and Computing

B. POLICY STATEMENT

CU Denver guarantees that, if the lack of scheduling-offering of essential courses is found to have prevented a student from completing all course work necessary for a baccalaureate BA, BFA, or BS degree from the university by the end of the student's eighth consecutive fall and spring semester, the college/school shall provide tuition plus any course fees for all courses required for completion of the degree requirements. This applies only when needed courses are not offered by the college/school and does not apply to scheduling conflicts for individual students. Students must satisfy all the requirements described below to be eligible for this guarantee.

C. ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

This guarantee applies to all students who enrolled for SS Summer 2002 or after as first-semester, full-time freshmen who do not have admission deficiencies, who do not need remedial course work, and who satisfy all the requirements described below.

D. EXCLUSIONS

1. This guarantee does not include completion of all options within the major, a second major, a double degree, a minor, or a certificate program.
2. The four year graduation guarantee does not apply to programs in which the degree has been discontinued or is in process of being phased out. In these cases, every effort will be made to allow students to fulfill requirements by taking courses at other universities and colleges to facilitate timely completion of the degree.^[JC1]

F. STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM COMPLICATIONS

Some CU Denver study abroad programs may not provide a sufficient range of courses to allow students to meet the requirements and, thus, students who participate in study abroad programs during the fall or spring semesters may not be eligible for this guarantee. A student may be able to participate in a study abroad program during the summer semester and still meet all the requirements of this guarantee. It is essential that a student work closely with an advisor to determine if the student can participate in a study abroad program and still meet all the requirements of this guarantee.

G. REQUIREMENTS

Students must satisfy all of the following requirements to be eligible for this guarantee.

1. Students must enroll in CU Denver course work as specified on the student plan of study for eight consecutive fall and spring semesters.

2. Students must complete all required course work by the end of the eighth semester.
3. No fewer than 60 credit hours of applicable course work must be completed successfully by the end of the second year (24 calendar months); 90 hours by the end of the third year (36 calendar months); and 120 hours by the end of the fourth year (48 calendar months). Students must successfully complete an average of 15 credit hours each semester.
4. Students ~~are required to~~ must meet with their ~~college~~-advisor on a routine basis to ensure they are on track to graduate in 8 semesters. ~~and their major advisor for academic advising during the first, third, fifth, and seventh semesters of study.~~
5. ~~The major must be declared no later than the end of the first semester of study and students must not change their major or any options within the major.~~ [JC2][HM3]
6. A recommended plan of study toward the major must be agreed upon and signed by the student and advisor or provided and locked within the university academic planning tool at the end of the first semester orientation or at the start of the first term of enrollment. Thereafter students must make satisfactory progress toward completing the major, as defined by each major, and the general education requirements. Courses with certain grades may not meet the satisfactory progress requirement of this guarantee. A statement of what constitutes satisfactory progress and what grades are acceptable is available ~~from the major or departmental office at the time the major is declared.~~ in the course catalog for the year the student first enrolls. [HM4][JC5]
7. A minimum of ~~30-34~~ [HM6] credit hours of college general education courses should be completed by the end of the second year, including core curriculum courses that also meet major requirements and foreign language proficiency. [HM7]
8. All lower division graduation requirements must be successfully completed by the 90 semester hour mark.
9. Students must remain in academic good standing according to their school/college academic policies. [JC8]
10. At a minimum, grades of C-, C, or C+, as defined by the college/school, must be earned in all course work required for the major, and students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 in all major course work attempted.
11. Students must register each semester within one week of the student's specified eligibility to register enrollment appointment.
12. Students must take courses that are specified in the student plan of study approved by their advisor.

13. Elective courses must be avoided if they conflict with required major or general education courses. Elective courses must not be given a higher priority than required courses.
14. Students planning to use courses from Metropolitan State [College-University](#) of Denver through the Common Pool of Courses: (a) to satisfy general education requirements, must have prior permission from their college advising office; or (b) to satisfy major requirements, must have prior permission from their faculty advisor.
15. Students must meet all departmental, school or college and university policies regarding graduation requirements.
16. ~~The college/school must be notified in writing of the student's intent to graduate no later than the beginning of the seventh semester of study. Students intending to graduate at the end of a particular term must submit an online application for graduation between the first day of registration and census date of that term. A graduation application must be filed no later than the deadline for the appropriate graduation date.~~ The student must complete a graduation checkout/senior audit with their advisor. (See campus policy 7017, Graduation Deadlines)
17. The student is responsible for and must keep documentation proving that these requirements were satisfied (e.g., records of advising meetings attended, advising records and instructions, etc.).

Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:
 March 4, 2004: Adopted
 July 1, 2011: Updated and reinstated by the Provost
 April 19, 2019: Modified
April 1, 2020 (Pending): Revised
2. History:
 April 19, 2019: Modified to reflect a Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statement organized around the several operational divisions of the university. Article links, University branding, and formatting updated by the Provost's office. [\](#)
April 1, 2020 (Pending): Updated for additional schools/colleges providing baccalaureate degrees at CU Denver, as well as clarifying edits. There is also a recommendation to adjust the meeting cadence required of students with their academic advisor to be more aligned for student success and planning.
3. Initial Policy Effective Date: May 4, 2004

4. Cross References/Appendix: N/A
- [Campus Policy 7017, Graduation Deadlines](#)

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