General Degree Requirements

The following requirements are established by the University for all undergraduate degrees. The student also must complete additional requirements for each specific degree; these are established by each college and school within the University and are described elsewhere in this catalog.

University Core Curriculum • All baccalaureate degree programs offered by The University of Mississippi require the satisfactory completion of 6 hours of English composition*, 3 hours of college algebra or quantitative reasoning or a more advanced mathematics course, 6 hours of laboratory science, and 15 hours of humanities, social/behavioral sciences, and fine arts (to include at least 3 hours of course work from each area). The mathematics core course may not be taken by correspondence. The curricula for the various degree programs in the college and schools include these core requirements.

* Honors students may satisfy English composition requirements by taking English 207H and 208H.

Minimum Credit Hours • All baccalaureate degree programs require at least 126 semester hours with passing grades. Students who take more than the required number of hours will designate on a Degree Application Form which courses are to be applied towards the degree.

Minimum Grade Point Average • For the award of a bachelor’s degree from any school or college of The University of Mississippi, a student must earn a GPA of at least 2.00 on all course work submitted in fulfillment of the course requirements for the degree. In addition, the student must earn a minimum GPA of 2.00 on all course work attempted at The University of Mississippi. Finally, the student must have a minimum 2.00 GPA on all college work attempted at any institution of higher learning.

There may be additional grade requirements for the College of Liberal Arts or the professional schools. It is the student's responsibility to check on the requirements applicable to the specific degree for which he or she is a candidate.

Academic Residency Requirements • All courses taken at The University of Mississippi Oxford campus, at any of the University’s resident centers in Tupelo, Jackson, Southaven, or other locations in Mississippi, through the University’s Department of Independent Study by a University of Mississippi student, or through approved study abroad and exchange programs where the student is registered in University of Mississippi courses, are considered to be courses taken in residence.

At least 25 percent of the semester credit hours required for an undergraduate degree (e.g., 32 hours for a 126 hour degree) must be taken in residence. At least 30 semester
hours of credit must be taken in residence while enrolled in the school or college recommending the degree.

**Last 21 Hour Residency Requirement.** Students must acquire at least *15 of their last 21 credit hours* in residence at the University. That is, no more than 6 of the last 21 hours may be transfer credit. A student may not apply courses taken from the University’s Independent Study department or via the University’s study abroad or exchange programs towards this 15 hour requirement unless the student has obtained written approval from the student’s academic department and dean before enrolling in the course.

**Degree Application** • Each senior must file a degree application, listing courses and credit hours to be applied towards the degree, with his or her academic dean. Deadlines for submitting this application are set by the college and schools.

**Diploma Application** • A candidate for graduation must submit an application for a diploma to the registrar on or before the deadline for the application for diploma, as stated in the Academic Calendar. Application is made for graduation at a specified time; if a student fails to graduate at that time, he or she must submit another application to be considered for graduation at a later date.

**Commencement** • Attendance at commencement exercises is required for those students who graduate at the end of spring or summer semesters. In case of hardship, a student may petition his or her academic dean to be excused. With the recommendation of the dean and the approval of the chancellor, the degree can be awarded in absentia. Students who graduate at mid-year are invited to participate in the spring commencement, but are not required to attend.

**Second Bachelor’s Degree** • The University of Mississippi may confer a second bachelor’s degree upon either its graduates or those of another institution when a student has completed the specific course requirements for the second degree as defined by The University of Mississippi. In addition to the credits used for the first degree, the candidate for the second bachelor’s degree must complete at least 30 semester hours in residence from the school or college recommending the degree, with a minimum 2.00 GPA for those courses.

**Curriculum Changes** • Whenever possible, the University allows a student to obtain a degree by completing the curriculum course requirements in the catalog in effect at the time of the first, or any subsequent, registration at The University of Mississippi or at an accredited junior, community, or senior college, provided the work is completed within six years of the publication date of the catalog used. In the case of minor changes to a specified curriculum, a school or college may require substitute courses or activities to meet the spirit of the requirements. However, in the case of substantial changes to the curriculum, the University reserves the right to require currently enrolled students to follow a new curriculum.