



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 17, 2013

Interim Dean Robert C. Stacey
College of Arts and Sciences
Box 353765

Dear Bob:

Based on the recommendation of its Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards has recommended approval of the revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomy. A copy of the change is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Astronomy is authorized to specify these requirements beginning autumn quarter 2013.

The new requirements should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Young".

Michael K. Young
President

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Sarah Garner (with enclosure)
Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)
Dr. Deborah H. Wiegand (with enclosure)
Ms. Virjean Edwards (with enclosure ASTR-20121217)



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

CREATING AND CHANGING UNDERGRADUATE
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

DEC 03 2012

OFFICE USE ONLY

Control #

ASTR-20121217

After college/school/campus review, send a signed original and 1 copy to the Curriculum Office/FCAS, Box 355850.

For information about when and how to use this form: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwcr/1503instructions.pdf>

College/Campus	Arts and Sciences	Department/Unit	Astronomy	Date	12/17/12
New Programs					
<input type="checkbox"/> Leading to a Bachelor of _____ in _____ degree.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Leading to a Bachelor of _____ degree with a major in _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Leading to a _____ Option within the existing major in _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Leading to a minor in _____.					
Changes to Existing Programs					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Admission Requirements for the Major in <u>Astronomy</u> within the Bachelor of Science _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Revised Program Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Revised Requirements for the Option in _____ within the major in _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Revised Requirements for the Minor in _____.					
Other Changes					
<input type="checkbox"/> Change name of program from _____ to _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/> New or Revised Continuation Policy for _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate program in _____.					
Proposed Effective Date: Quarter: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Autumn <input type="checkbox"/> Winter <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Year: 2013					

Contact Person:	Sarah Garner	Phone: 3-9590	Email: sterrs@uw.edu	Box: 351580
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EXPLANATION OF AND RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

For new program, please include any relevant supporting documentation such as student learning outcomes, projected enrollments, letters of support and departmental handouts. (Use additional pages if necessary).

As of Autumn 2012 in the College of Arts and Sciences Natural Sciences Division, only Astronomy and Physics remain open majors. Open majors allow students to declare the major at any time during their college career, regardless if they have taken any applicable coursework. As a result, since 2006 among the students that declared then dropped Astronomy, 50% had not taken any Physics. A third of students dropping decided not to continue taking Physics after the first calculus-based Physics class (Phys 121). Anecdotally, we see a large number of junior-level students declare Astronomy while they await admissions decisions from engineering or other competitive science programs with no clear intent to major in Astronomy. The administrative and faculty commitment to processing new majors, tracking progress and dropping majors is high. We therefore request to have minimal prerequisites added for admissions into the Astronomy Bachelors of Science degree. We anticipate a minimal but overall positive impact for those students that need to find an appropriate major based on academic performance.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED

List all departments/units/ or co-accredited programs affected by your new program or changes to your existing program and acquire the signature of the chair/director of each department/unit listed. Attach additional page(s) if necessary. *See online instructions.

Department/Unit:	Chair/Program Director:	Date:
Department/Unit:	Chair/Program Director:	Date:

CATALOG COPY

Catalog Copy as currently written. Include only sections/paragraphs that would be changed if your request is approved. Please cross out or otherwise highlight any deletions.

Enrolled students in good academic standing may declare the major at any time. Students complete the necessary paperwork to declare by visiting the department advising office.

PROPOSED CATALOG COPY

Reflecting requested changes (Include exact wording as you wish it to be shown in the printed catalog. Please underline or otherwise highlight any additions. If needed, attach a separate, expanded version of the changes that might appear in department publications). Please note: all copy will be edited to reflect uniform style in the General Catalog.

PHYS 121, 122, 123 (or full transfer equivalent) with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 for the three courses.

2.00

APPROVALS

Chair/Program Director:

Date:

11/20/12

College/School/Campus Curriculum Committee:

Date:

12/3/12

Dean/Vice Chancellor:

Date:

12/3/12

Faculty Council on Academic Standards/ General Faculty Organization/Faculty Assembly Chair:

Date:

1/11/13

POST TRI-CAMPUS APPROVAL (when needed)

Faculty Council on Academic Standards/ General Faculty Organization/Faculty Assembly Chair:

Date: