

Frequently Asked Questions about the Senior Year For students who entered prior to Fall 2000

The following anticipates some of the questions you may have regarding Wesleyan's graduation requirements and the graduation process. Additional information can be found in Wesleyan's academic regulations at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/registrar/AR.html>. If you still have questions, contact Dean Rutherford at vrutherford@wesleyan.edu or at x2757.

December Completion

What will happen after the Fall semester if I have completed 34.00 credits and all major requirements? Do I have to leave Wesleyan in December?

Not unless it is your eighth semester at Wesleyan or, if you are a transfer student, the last of your allotted Wesleyan semesters. You are entitled to eight semesters (or for transfers, the number of semesters you were assigned at entry), regardless of credit accumulation and major status.

If I am planning to finish in December, will I have graduated?

No, because degrees are only voted by the faculty once a year in May. We can provide you with a letter stating that you have completed all degree requirements and are expected to graduate in May, but we would need confirmation from your major department that all major requirements have been met.

General Education

What do I need to do if I decide not to fulfill the General Education Expectations?

First of all, they are not requirements but expectations. This means that compliance is not required for graduation by the University. However, some faculty advisors require that you complete them and some departments or programs make compliance a **major** requirement or requirement for departmental honors, so be sure to check with your major department. The consequence of not fulfilling the University's expectation is that you are not eligible for certain kinds of graduation honors, such as honors in General Scholarship and University Honors. Phi Beta Kappa also requires that you fulfill the General Education Expectations for eligibility purposes.

Can I still do a thesis and be eligible for departmental honors if I choose not to fulfill the General Education Expectations?

It depends on whether fulfillment is a necessary component of your major requirements or is a condition for undertaking a thesis or being eligible for honors in a department or program. Check with your major department to be sure. If you are a candidate for Honors in General Scholarship (for example, doing an interdisciplinary thesis) or think you have a shot at University Honors (high honors on thesis, nomination, and interview by Honors

Committee) or Phi Beta Kappa, then you **must** fulfill the General Education Expectations.

Leave of Absence

What about taking a leave to study elsewhere during my senior year?

It can be done, but it can get complicated, particularly in the spring semester of your senior year. You must carefully investigate with your major department your ability to use transfer credits to satisfy remaining major requirements. In the spring, you must attend a school whose academic calendar coincides with Wesleyan's, because by May 21, 2008, we will need an official transcript to transfer the credits to your record. The transcript can be difficult or impossible to obtain by this time, which could mean that you will not graduate this year. If you are contemplating taking an academic leave in the spring, see Dean Gates as soon as possible to review your options.

Oversubscription

Isn't all the fuss over oversubscription meaningless as long as I have at least 20 credits outside a single department?

Yes and no! Be careful, because oversubscription also involves a restriction on the **level** of courses in a department. For example, if all fourteen of your departmental credits are numbered 201 and above, then you would be oversubscribed by 2.00 credits and therefore, using your approach, would need 22.00 credits outside your department to reach 34.00. Also be careful to take into account all cross-listed courses. You may be missing a problem by not remembering that a course taken under another department's designation must be counted in all departments in which it is cross-listed.

There are also other restrictions on certain credits you can count toward your degree: 1.00 Physical Education credit or 2.00 Student Forum credits, or a combined total of 2.00 credits of Physical Education and Student Forum credits; 2.00 Teaching Apprentice tutorials; a combined total of 4.00 individual and group tutorial credits; a combined total of 4.00 Education-in-the-Field/Independent Study credits; 2.00 Summer School credits per summer; and 2.00 pre-matriculant credits. If over these limits, the number of credits that can count toward the 32.00 is negatively affected.

The credit analysis is the most reliable tool to assess your oversubscription situation. All your courses are put in the appropriate departments (including cross-listed courses) at the appropriate levels. Your credit analysis is available through your e-portfolio and is updated every night.

What happens to the credits if I am oversubscribed?

They remain on your transcript, in your credit total and are factored into your grade point average. However, the number of useable credits that count toward the 34.00 graduation

credits is affected. Although your credit total may be fine, if oversubscribed, you may not have enough **useable** credits.

What happens in terms of oversubscription if I decide to discontinue my honors thesis and downgrade to a 407 or 408?

If you decide not to do your honors thesis **and** either 409 or 410 is your fifteenth or sixteenth credit in the department or is your thirteenth or fourteenth credit in courses 201 and above, then you will be oversubscribed in that department by one or two credits when it becomes 407 or 408. Each will also count as an individual tutorial.

Per-Credit Basis

I heard that I could register on a per-credit basis for my last semester if I was close to 34.00 credits and therefore avoid paying a full semester of tuition. Is this true?

In most cases, no. All degree-seeking students at Wesleyan must be here on a full-time basis, and full-time status is being registered for at least 3.00 credits, which is covered by the semester tuition rate. There is only one exception to this: seniors in their last semester who are completing the second half of their honors thesis and need **only** that credit to complete all degree requirements. These are the only degree-seeking students at Wesleyan who can be on a per-credit basis and they are allowed to register only for the second thesis tutorial. Should you register in the spring for only the second half of your thesis tutorial, understand that this semester will **not** count as a Wesleyan semester and could affect your residency requirement. If you are contemplating enrolling on a per-credit basis, you should see Dean Gates early in the Fall to discuss your options.

Upon Completion

What does Upon Completion really mean? Can I participate in the Commencement ceremony?

Upon Completion is a graduation category that applies to those students who entered prior to Fall 2000 and who are within 2.00 credits of completing **all** degree requirements. This means that to be Upon Completion, you must have earned at least 32.00 useable credits and have no more than 2.00 credits remaining to complete all degree requirements. Your degree is then voted by the faculty “Upon Completion,” and your diploma will be sent to you once all outstanding work (credits and/or major requirements) has been completed. You retain your class year and may participate fully in the Commencement ceremony, but you will not have graduated.

Is there a time limit to complete Upon Completion?

You should finish up as soon as possible. Few people outside of Wesleyan understand this pending category. If a potential employer or graduate school wants to know if you have graduated, you must respond honestly to that question with a “no.” However, your

degree has been voted by the faculty Upon Completion and will be awarded once outstanding work has been completed. Given the ambiguity of the Upon Completion status, we strongly recommend that you finish up the summer after your senior year, so that your degree is completed as quickly as possible, your diploma can be awarded, and you can move on with your life.

What about being Upon Completion in December?

There is no such thing as being Upon Completion in December, since Upon Completion is a graduation category approved by faculty vote that takes place in May. However, it is possible for you to be finished with Wesleyan in December and take a leave of absence for the spring to take additional credits or a job elsewhere (see “Leave of Absence,” above).