

Committee on Educational Policy Students' Catalog Rights¹

1. Catalog rights guarantee that if a student completes the requirements of a program as published in the General Catalog for their “catalog year(s)” (defined below), they will have completed the program.
2. Catalog rights apply to major requirements as well as minor, concentration, intensive major, combined major, general education, and college requirements. They do not apply to criteria for honors, undergraduate certificates, and other recognitions or programs.
3. Catalog rights do not apply to course availability, course prerequisites and corequisites, or course content and structure. However, programs are responsible for ensuring course schedules provide students a reasonable path through the program.
4. A student’s catalog year will initially be set to the first year of degree-seeking enrollment at UC Santa Cruz. If a student seeks readmission after a break in attendance greater than two years (six quarters excluding Summer Session), their catalog year will be reset to the year when they are readmitted.
5. Students may elect to follow different catalog years for their college requirements, university and general education requirements, and the requirements of each major and each minor.
6. At any point, a student may change a catalog year to a later year in which they were (or are) enrolled at UC Santa Cruz. Except as noted below for transfer students, a catalog year may not be changed to a catalog year prior to the student’s entry term as a degree-seeking undergraduate.

To change a catalog year, students should contact the department/major/minor adviser (for major/minor requirements) or college adviser (for college and general education requirements). Programs may require that students meet declaration requirements present in the General Catalog for the catalog year to which a student is changing.

¹ This policy applies to all undergraduates who entered UCSC in fall quarter 1993 or thereafter. The catalog year for graduation for students who entered UCSC prior to fall quarter 1993, whether the year they entered UCSC or a subsequent year, will be decided at the discretion of their major department with regard to major requirements. If the department and major no longer exist, the student may petition CEP to determine whether completing the major is still possible, and what their graduation requirements should be. The student may also petition CEP to approve an Individual Major, in which case the deadline [specified](#) in the Individual Major Guidelines will be waived.

7. Transfer students may additionally select catalog years prior to when they joined UC Santa Cruz, no earlier than the later of i) their entry year to a previous collegiate institution and ii) three years prior to transfer.²
8. Although General Education (GE) requirements are determined by catalog year, the specific courses that satisfy a particular GE requirement can change from year to year. The current GE designation of each course is provided in the online schedule of classes. Students should confirm a course carries the desired GE designation when they enroll.
9. The course(s) that satisfy the Disciplinary Communication GE requirement for each major are published in each year's General Catalog. Students should consult the General Catalog for the year in which they plan to take their DC course(s) to find out the courses that are needed.
10. All program, college, university and GE requirements for graduation that are outlined in the catalog(s) selected for each of them must be met before graduation.

When a program that falls under this policy is proposed to be suspended or discontinued, CEP will consult with the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs to verify that the proposed teach-out plan will provide students in the program a reasonable opportunity to complete the program. In some cases, teach-out plans for a major may be required to include students who are proposed in the major or have applied as transfer students to the major, or — if the major has concentrations — provide a pathway to graduation in the student's concentration.³ Teach-out plans may include course substitutions and other modifications to ensure students are able to complete the program.

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy on May 19, 2010, revised March 2017, and January 8, 2020

² However, if transfer students are admitted to a major that has been discontinued, they can select a catalog year for that major that is up to three years prior to transfer.

³ A teach-out plan is generally not needed when a combined major is to be discontinued; if the program requirements are a subset of the sum of the requirements for the constituent single majors, and these single majors are not being discontinued, the courses for the combined major should remain available.