GUIDELINES FOR ACCELERATED GRADUATION

Normally, Brown undergraduates complete degree requirements in eight semesters of full-time study. Students who have met all degree requirements and who wish to graduate in seven semesters must petition the Committee on Academic Standing for permission to do so. Students who are approved for accelerated graduation by the Committee on Academic Standing must still meet Brown’s eight-semester enrollment requirement by paying the tuition charge for the eighth semester.

The following requirements are applied in reviewing petitions for accelerated graduation:

1. **Academic performance:** Students must be in good academic standing at the time of petitioning and are expected to have demonstrated a strong academic record—that is, one in which two-thirds of their grades are A’s and/or S’s with Distinction.

2. **Breadth of study:** Students’ academic programs must reflect the goals of a liberal education. Students must take at least two courses in each of the four divisions of the College: humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, and life sciences. At least 14 courses must be outside the student’s area of concentration.

3. **Depth of study:** Students are expected to have explored areas outside their concentration(s) above the introductory level. Students must take two or more courses beyond the introductory level in disciplines outside of their concentration’s division. For example, a student concentrating in physics will have taken at least two 1000-level courses in the humanities, social sciences, or life sciences.

4. **Compelling educational or professional opportunity.** Students must demonstrate that they have an offer of matriculation to professional or graduate school, a fellowship award, or an immediate employment opportunity that would otherwise be lost or denied if they do not accelerate their graduation.

Students interested in being considered for accelerated graduation must meet with the Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing during their sixth term of study to discuss whether or not they meet the criteria for submitting a petition. If the Chair approves a petition to the Committee, the student must write a letter explaining their reasons for requesting accelerated graduation and describing how their academic record conforms to the criteria enumerated above. The deadline for submitting a petition for accelerated graduation is mid-term of the student’s seventh semester. Call 401-863-2676 to schedule an appointment with the Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing.

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