

Yale University
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Brief Historical Summary of Undergraduate Requirements and Grading Systems

Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree

For the class of 1970 and subsequent classes, a student must successfully complete at least 36 semester courses or their equivalent in Yale College to qualify for the degree of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.). Semester credit hours only appear on the transcript for the convenience of other institutions. The student must also fulfill the Distributional Requirements, including the Foreign Language Requirement (beginning with students entering in Fall 1984), and complete the requirements of a major program, including a departmental examination or its equivalent, such as a senior essay. Some programs offer an intensive major as well as a standard major. A student may normally complete no more than eight terms of enrollment in order to fulfill these requirements.

Students who enter Yale College with advanced preparation may be awarded credit in those subjects at the conclusion of the freshman year (college credit for students who entered prior to September 1975; acceleration credit for students who entered subsequently). Such credit may be counted toward the requirements for graduation if the student accelerates - that is, if the student concludes his or her studies in fewer than eight semesters.

A limited number of students enroll as Degree Special Students, usually completing degree requirements on a part-time basis over a period not exceeding seven years. Such enrollment may lead to the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or Bachelor of Liberal Studies (B.L.S.) degree. The B.L.S. degree has the same requirements as the B.A. and the B.S. degrees except that in place of the requirements of a major program, a student completes 15 semester courses or their equivalent in an area of concentration.

For the class of 1969, at least 38 semester courses or their equivalent must have been satisfactorily completed for the Bachelor's degree in the standard major.

For the classes of 1934 to 1968, at least 40 semester courses or their equivalent must have been satisfactorily completed for the Bachelor's degree in the standard major.

For the classes of 1927 to 1933, at least 120 semester hours were required for graduation.

For the classes of 1926 and prior classes, 60 year hours were required for graduation.

Summer Programs

Yale Summer Session (1979-2004 known as Yale Summer Programs) is currently an independent division of the University. In both content and method, most Summer Session courses are identical to courses offered in Yale College during the regular academic year. Summer Session courses are, however, smaller in size and are both more concentrated and intensive than courses offered during the regular fall and spring semesters. Summer Session courses are taught by regular faculty of Yale University, by visiting professors who receive temporary appointments at Yale, and by Yale graduate students. Summer courses are approved by the Yale College faculty for credit toward the bachelor's degree.

From 1975 through 1978, Yale College offered a summer term, the equivalent of a regular fall or spring term. Students could participate in a summer term as regular enrollment if the term was intended to be one of eight terms of attendance, or as supplementary enrollment if the term was not to be one of the eight required terms. Part-time participation in a summer term was permitted under supplementary enrollment.

Numbering of Courses

Beginning in 1977-78, undergraduate courses are numbered from 001 to 499. Course numbers do not necessarily correlate with course level. Courses taken in the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are numbered from 500 to 999. Courses offered through the various Yale Professional Schools are numbered according to the systems of those respective schools.

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Numbering of Courses (continued)

Fall term courses carry the letter a in the course number, while spring term courses carry the letter b. Year-long courses, whose numbers appear without the letters a or b, may appear with identical abbreviated titles for the two terms in which the courses were taken. In some year-long courses, failure to complete the second term result in no credit for either term. During the period from 1975 through 1978, the letter c appeared in the course number for courses completed during a summer term.

Before 1977-78, courses numbered from 10 to 19 were, in general, elementary or first-year courses. Second-year, or intermediate courses, were numbered from 20 to 29. Third-year and advanced courses were numbered from 30 to 99. Courses numbered 100 and above were offered through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Grading Systems

Course grades in Yale College are not assigned numerical equivalents. Yale also does not calculate grade point averages or class rank. The college currently operates on a semester system.

Summer 1981 through the present :

A, A- Excellent	B+, B, B- Good	C+, C, C- Satisfactory
D+, D, D- Passing	F Fail	CR Credit (a)
W Withdrew (without prejudice after midterm)		

Fall 1972 through Spring 1981 :

A Excellent	B Very Good	C Satisfactory
F Fail	CR Credit	D Passing
W Withdrew (without prejudice after midterm)		

Fall 1967 through Spring 1972 :

H Honors	HP High Pass	P Pass
INP Incomplete	W Withdrew (in good standing)	F Fail
WF Withdrew (failing)		

Fall 1932 through Spring 1966 :

A 100-point numerical grading system was used in Yale College with the following demarcations:

A 90-100 **B** 80-89 **C** 70-79 **D** (passing) **F** 50-59

Prior to Fall 1932 :

A 400-point numerical grading system was used in Yale College with the following equivalencies established between the 100-point and the 400-point scales:

400 = 100 375 = 95 350 = 90 325 = 85 300 = 80 275 = 75 250 = 70
225 = 65 200 = 60 (passing)

Note:

(a) From Fall 1975 through Spring 1993, students could elect a limited number of courses on the Credit/Fail option; passing grades were converted to CR. Beginning with Fall 1993, only grades of C- and above in courses elected on the Credit/D/Fail option were converted to CR.

Source: Yale University Office of the FAS Registrar
W043 YC Requirmts
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