DARS Overview

DARS (Degree Audit Reporting System) serves the following purposes:

- When students apply to graduate a DARS is run to determine if the student is eligible to graduate.
- Students can use DARS to check their progress toward their degree.
- Students can use DARS to determine the effect of changing their major. For students and faculty running DARS from the SIS web system, the regulations from the current calendar are always used.

The program requirements defined in DARS reflect the program regulations defined in the University calendar. In cases where these two requirements may differ, the requirements as stated in the calendar are the official University of Windsor requirements. Students will normally follow the regulations for the calendar in effect when they start into their program. However, if the program regulations change in a subsequent calendar and the student wants to start following those regulations instead, then the student has that option.

Program regulations can change from one calendar to the next. Prior to 2004 Fall, the printed calendar was the University of Windsor's "Official" calendar. However, starting with the 2004 Fall calendar, the web version of the calendar is considered the "Official" calendar. This allows changes to be made to the calendar without having to wait until the next printing. Shortly before the term starts the calendar for that term is frozen. Any changes after that time will not become effective until the next term.

The regulations defined in DARS can either be defined as a stand-alone requirement or as a group of requirements. Stand-alone requirements are used to check for residency, the maximum number of 100-level courses that can be taken, etc. Requirement groups are used to define the break-down of the 30 or 40 courses needed to graduate from the program. Each group must have a "Header" requirement defining the total number of courses needed from that group and the total number of requirements that must be met. Normally each and every requirement must be satisfied. However, some programs (e.g. International Relations and Development Studies) have two different streams that may be followed. In this case students must satisfy one of two requirements.

Main requirements within DARS are broken down into "Sub-Requirements". The main requirement will list the number of courses (and sub-requirements) that have already been taken and that remain to be taken.

Program Requirements in DARS are normally defined in the following order. All programs and requirements within DARS have effective start and end terms when the rules are effective. This allows us to change requirements over time. The student's record within SIS contains information to identify the program and calendar the student is following.

1.   Average Requirements

     This includes cumulative and major average requirements. Please note that all
     marks obtained in courses in the major area of study are used to calculate major
     averages. For programs that also require, as part of their major requirements,
     courses from outside the major area of study, those courses are also included in
     the major average. The major average IS NOT calculated using only those
     courses that have been used to satisfy the major requirements of the program.

2.   Text explaining the program requirements. (New for the 2004 Fall calendar.)

3.   Senior Level Course Requirements

     Normally no more than 14 100-level courses may be used to satisfy the program
     requirements. So, if a program requires 30 courses then 16 courses at the 200-
     level or above must be taken. If a program requires 40 courses then 26 courses at
     the 200-level or above must be taken.

4.   Residency Requirement(s).

     For general programs this usually involves 2 different requirements. The first
     requirement will ensure 10 200-level (or higher) courses must be taken at the
     University of Windsor. The second requirement will ensure 6 200-level (or
     higher) courses in the major area of study must be taken at the University of
     Windsor.

     For honours programs, there will be one requirement to ensure 10 200-level (or
     higher) courses in the major area of study must be taken at the University of
     Windsor.

     For combined honours programs, there will be two requirements to ensure 5 200-
     level (or higher) courses in each major area of study must be taken at the
     University of Windsor.

5.   Following the residency requirement may be zero or more individual
     requirements to check for additional things that cannot be checked in the main
     group. For example, Philosophy has a requirement that a minimum number of the
     Philosophy courses taken must be at the 200 level or above.

6.   The Header requirement for the main group.

     This requirement defines the total number of courses in the group as well as the
     number of main requirements that must be satisfied. Normally every requirement
     in the group must be satisfied. The order of the requirements listed in this group
     will normally reflect the order of the requirements as listed in the calendar.

7. Major Requirements.

There is normally one main requirement listing all of the "Major Requirements" for the program. For combined honours program there will be one requirement for each of the majors.

The first sub-requirement within this requirement will include all courses that MUST be taken. Subsequent requirements are used to define requirements where students have a choice as to which course(s) may be taken. Examples are:

a) You must take either 46-229 or 46-230.
b) You must take two 400-level courses from 46-422, 46-423, 46-424, 46-425.

The order of sub-requirements will normally reflect the order of the requirements as listed in the calendar.

8. Option Requirements.

This may involved one or more requirements so that common requirements can be shared among many programs. For example, there is a common requirement to define the rule "two Language courses in the same language or two Science courses". Being able to share common requirements allows DARS for new programs to be defined quicker. Option courses cannot include any courses from the student's major area of study.

9. Other Requirements

Any additional requirements follow. These may be options or courses from any area of study.

10. Unused Courses

At the end of the DARS, any course not used to satisfy a requirement within the main group will be listed. Students should get in the habit of running a DARS for their program following registration to ensure the courses they've registered in will be used to satisfy program requirements.

If a student has failed a course, repeated a course or taken anti-requisites then those courses will be listed here because they cannot be used to satisfy program requirements.