

Curriculum Committee Resolution 23/24-09

Date: March 7, 2024

To: St. Olaf Faculty

From: Curriculum Committee

Re: Modifications to January Term Policy

At the March 14, 2024 Faculty Meeting, the Curriculum Committee will move that the faculty approve the following addition to the catalog beginning in the 2024-25 school year. After accepting recommendations from the Policy, Procedures and Accessibility Sub-Committee, the Curriculum Committee proposes this change and accompanying points of clarification to the colleges catalog.

Resolution:

Specific regulations as they apply to January term include:

1. Three ~~successful~~/completed January terms are required for graduation. Transfer students admitted with sophomore or junior standing must ~~successfully~~/ complete two January terms.
2. Students are expected to devote a minimum of 40 hours of study per week directly related to the January term course, including class time, outside reading, and other course-related work. In general, faculty and student contact hours for January term approximate the contact hours per course during the regular semester: 35-40 hours for the entire January term or 8-10 hours per week. A class session is required on the first day and the last day of the January term for examination or evaluation purposes. Grades are based on evaluation procedures similar to the regular semester.
3. First-year students must register for a January term course unless they have prior approval from their class dean.
4. Students may take only one course or program of instruction during January term. For example, St. Olaf students enrolled in a winter term course at Carleton are not permitted to enroll in the St. Olaf January term. The Carleton course equals a full January term load. Students enrolled in a January term course or program cannot audit another course for the purpose of having a second transcript entry, e.g., "successful audit."
5. Departments and interdisciplinary programs have varying requirements concerning the use of January term courses in the major or to fulfill graduation requirements. Students should consult the department or program, this catalog, and the online January term [Class and Lab Schedule](#).

- ~~6. For seniors who are completing their degree and who have successfully completed two January terms, a St. Olaf summer school course taken after commencement may count as the third January term. The student must pay the appropriate St. Olaf summer school tuition.~~
7. 6. Students may complete ~~waive~~ one or more of the three 1.00 credit January term requirements through participation in a St. Olaf-approved study abroad or away semester or year program if the dates of the abroad or away program preclude successful completion of a separate January term course.
8. 7. If a student cannot complete the three January term requirement, they should petition the registrar for alternative ways to satisfy this requirement.

Rationale:

The changes are made to update the policy to reflect current practice. A student can take a January class and fail and make it up elsewhere. Additionally, seniors have a number of options to make up class(es) if they are not able to complete the required number of credits during their four years. Finally, study away/abroad courses can be included in the number of credits needed to graduate.