

St. Olaf Policy on Going Up in Catalog

Fall 2021

Many continuing students--students who first enrolled at St. Olaf prior to 2021-2022--have questions about how the implementation of the OLE Core will impact them. Will they continue to need to meet the requirements of the GE curriculum or will they instead have the option of switching to the OLE Core?

This document, endorsed by the Curriculum Committee, attempts to answer this question by clarifying the college's long-standing practice related to "going up in catalog year"--a practice that is also common on most other college and university campuses. This document does not offer new policy, it merely clarifies existing policy. In most cases, students are required to meet all college requirements as outlined in the academic catalog of the year that they first enrolled as degree-seeking students. "Going up in catalog year" refers to a situation in which a student follows the requirements outlined in the academic catalog of a year after the year in which they first enrolled as degree candidates.

Students, faculty, and staff should keep the following in mind:

All students who first enrolled at St. Olaf as degree candidates in the 2021-2022 academic year or in a subsequent academic year will be required to fulfill the OLE Core requirements.

Most students who first enrolled as degree candidates prior to the 2021-2022 academic year will continue to fulfill the former GE curriculum. Students who enrolled prior to 2021-2022 fall into one of two categories:

- Students who elect a new or modified major, concentration, or emphasis can and must go up in catalog year. In other words, such students must meet the requirements for their new or modified major, concentration, or emphasis, as well as meeting the requirements for the OLE Core (rather than the requirements of the former GE curriculum).
- Students who do not elect a new or modified major, concentration, or emphasis must, as the Catalog states, meet the graduation requirements outlined in the catalog for the academic year in which they first entered St. Olaf as degree candidates. These requirements include the requirements of the former GE curriculum (rather than the requirements of the OLE Core).

In both of the above scenarios, "new or modified major, concentration, or emphasis" indicates a major, concentration, or emphasis that is new or modified in the 2021-2022 academic catalog or in the academic catalog of a subsequent year.

One principle to keep in mind is that each student must follow all of the requirements outlined in the official catalog of a single academic year. Students cannot mix and match requirements from

different academic catalogs. For example, students are not permitted to follow the general education requirements outlined in the 2019-2020 academic catalog and the major, concentration, or area of emphasis requirements outlined in the 2021-2022 academic catalog.

Note that continuing students who choose a major, concentration, or emphasis with requirements that were modified in 2021-2022 (or subsequent academic years) will have the option of fulfilling either the requirements of the major, concentration, or emphasis that were outlined in the academic catalog of the year that they first enrolled or the requirements of the major, concentration, or emphasis as outlined in the catalog of a subsequent year during their time as a degree-seeking student. The student's choice of catalog will determine which set of college-wide requirements--the former GE curriculum or the OLE Core--they must follow.

In some cases, particularly when a student opts to add a new or modified major, concentration, or area of emphasis at a late stage in their academic career, meeting the requirements of a single catalog may prove challenging. In these instances, the Registrar's Office will work closely with the department chair or program director to determine the best course of action and whether modifications to one or more requirements are justified.