

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ARTS STUDENTS CHANGES TO YOUR DEGREE IN 2006

From the beginning of 2006, along with almost all other faculties in the University, we will be changing to a system in which all units of study, both junior and senior, are worth 6 credit points.

How does the move to 6 cp units of study change a typical full-time load?

From 2006, the typical full-time load will be *four* units of study (24 credit points) in each semester.

All departments have revised their curriculum and adjusted the content and assessment in senior units of study so that they fit the new credit point value. The work required of a full-time student will therefore remain the same as at present although it may be distributed differently.

How does the move to 6-credit-point units of study change the definition of a major?

From the beginning of 2006, students wishing to major in a subject area in the Faculty of Arts (a Part A subject area) will need to complete **36 senior credit points**, i.e. six senior units of study, in that subject area. As is presently the case, some departments require that you complete particular units of study in order to be awarded a major. You should consult the department(s) in which you are planning to major to find out if they have such requirements.

Students enrolled before 2006, are required to complete at least **32 senior credit points** in a Part A subject area to be awarded a major. Depending upon what you have done prior to 2006, you may not be able to gain exactly 32 credit points. If that's the case, you must to gain *more* than 32 credit points to complete the major. For example, if you have completed 24 senior credit points of History prior to 2006, taking one 6 credit point unit of History would give you a total of 30 credit points, 2 credit points less than you require for a major in History. You would need to take a second 6-credit-point unit of History to complete the major. However, this should not mean that you have to complete more than the required 144 credit points to get your degree. See the next page for information on completing your degree.

How does the move to 6-credit-point units of study change entry into 4th year Honours?

To qualify for entry into fourth year Honours in a Part A subject area you still need to complete 48 senior credit points, with an average mark of Credit or better, in that subject area. From 2006, that means completing eight 6-credit-point senior units of study. As is presently the case, some departments require that you complete particular units of study in order to qualify for entry into the Honours year. You should consult the department in which you are planning to do Honours to find out if they have such requirements.

Students enrolled before 2006, have to fulfil the requirements in place when they enrolled. Depending upon what you have done prior to 2006, you may not be able to gain exactly the number of credit points required. If so, you must gain *more* than that number of credit points to qualify for entry into 4th year Honours. For example, if you are seeking to undertake Honours in History, which requires 48 credit points in history with an average mark of Credit or better, and you have completed 32 senior credit points of History prior to 2006, taking two 6 credit points units of History will give you a total of 44 credit points, 4 credit points less than you require for entry into History Honours. You would need to take another 6-credit point unit of History to complete the requirement. However, this should not mean that you have to complete more than the required 144 credit points to get your degree. See the next page for information on completing your degree.

If you are seeking to do Honours in a Department that also requires that you complete particular units of study in order to qualify for entry into the Honours year, you should contact the Department to find out which 6 credit points units you need to complete in order to fulfil that requirement.

How does the move to 6-credit-point units of study change Arts degrees?

There is **no** change in the number of credit points required to complete your degree (e.g. 144 for a three year degree like the Bachelor of Arts, 192 for a four year degree, 240 for a five year degree).

Students enrolled before 2006 may not be able to gain *exactly* the number of credit points required for their degree.

We want to be sure that no student is disadvantaged in any way under the new system. For this reason, if you find that you will fall a few credit points short of the required number because of the changes, we will offer you two choices:

1. You will be eligible to take out your degree with *up to 5 credit points less* than the number of credit points normally required, provided you have fulfilled the requirements for your Part A major (and completed other compulsory components where appropriate).

As soon as your total number of credit points is *within 5 credit points* of the number normally required, you will be assessed for graduation (i.e. between 139 and 143 credit points for a three year degree, between 187 and 191 for a four year degree, between 235 and 239 for a five year degree).

If you have fulfilled all other requirements for your degree but do not wish to be considered for graduation when you are within this credit point range you must inform the Faculty in writing.

Example:

Lee is doing a three year degree: a Bachelor of Arts. He completes 140 credit points by the end of 2006, including 32 senior credit points in Performance Studies, his Part A major. If Lee wishes to be considered for graduation, he does not need to take any further action; he will automatically be assessed for graduation unless he writes to the Faculty to let us know that he doesn't want to graduate yet.

2. **If you have fulfilled all other requirements for your degree but do not wish to be considered for graduation when you are within the range of five credit points of the number normally required for your degree you must inform the Faculty in writing.**

You might, for example, wish to take one extra unit in order to complete an extra major or a particular sequence of units in a subject area. As long as it is just the one extra unit, there is no need to ask for permission; just write to let the Faculty know that you do not yet want to be considered for graduation.

If, however, you wish to go over the number of credit points normally required for your degree by *more than 5 credit points*, you do need apply to the Faculty for permission.

Example:

Kim is doing a four year degree: a Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications). By the end of 2006 she completes 188 credit points, including all her compulsory units (which include her Part A major in Media and Communications along with all other compulsory units) and her second major in Government and International Relations.

Kim could choose to graduate straight away. However, she realises that she has also completed 26 credit points in French, and with only one more unit, could graduate with a major in French as well. She does not need to apply for permission to take the extra unit in French, because her total will be (188 + 6 =) 194 credit points, still *within 5 credit points* of the normal requirement of 192 credit points for a four year degree. She simply needs to write to the Faculty, informing us that she does not wish to be considered for graduation yet.