

## Prerequisite/Corequisite Guidelines

### 1. What are prerequisites/corequisites?

Prerequisites are conditions of enrollment that students are required to meet prior to enrollment in particular courses. The assignment of a prerequisite to a course signifies that the course, skills, or body of knowledge described in the prerequisite are essential to the success of the student in that course, and it is highly unlikely that a student who has not met the prerequisite will receive a satisfactory grade in the course for which the prerequisite has been established. A corequisite is a course required to be taken concurrently with another course, during the same quarter or term.

### 2. When must a course have a prerequisite/corequisite?

The prerequisite or co-requisite assures that students without specified skills, concepts, or information necessary for success in the “target” course are highly unlikely to receive a satisfactory grade without meeting the prerequisite or co-requisite.

There are multiple situations in which to apply this principle:

One would rest upon the student’s

- communication
- computational skills
- their application in the course for which the prerequisite is established;
- subject knowledge or mastery derived from previous courses or experiences.

Faculty in the discipline under review and the curriculum committee must play major roles in the establishment of pre- and co-requisites as well as the determination of the factors affecting a student’s likelihood of succeeding in a course without the specified pre- or co-requisite.

### 3. Does establishing a prerequisite/corequisite for a course mean that the College must restrict the enrollment in the course to students who meet the prerequisite?

Yes. A course that has a prerequisite signifies that the division and curriculum committee have carefully reviewed course content and requirements, entrance and exit skills, and knowledge necessary for the student to achieve a satisfactory grade in the course for which the prerequisite is obligatory. On the basis of this review, a determination has been made that a student without this prerequisite would not have a high expectation of success in the course. Moreover, the very definition of the term “prerequisite” makes clear that it is a condition of enrollment that a student is required to meet. This does not preclude the Dean

or department Chair from waiving the prerequisite if he/she deems the student has the required content knowledge equivalent to the prerequisite.

**4. What data must be collected for a new prerequisite/corequisite to be established?**

Research showing that the prerequisite or corequisite is necessary for student success must be conducted prior to students being expected to meet it. This may be done using the college's historical data on student performance and student completion/non-completion of the proposed prerequisite and correlated with student performance and completion/non-completion of the "target" course. Course transferability should be considered in establishing or removing a course prerequisite.

It may be discovered that the new prerequisite can be met by the college's assessment and placement processes. If this appears to be a viable approach, instructional faculty in the disciplines should meet with the Testing Center to identify an appropriate assessment tool to determine a student's readiness for entrance into a target course.

Additionally, cut scores or ranges would need to be reviewed to ensure that they remain useful in determining skill levels for meeting prerequisites. For new prerequisites, these may be initially arrived at through a well-documented empirical approach by faculty in the division.

**5. What does it mean if a prerequisite/corequisite states instructor permission?**

The student will only be able to enroll in the course if he/she has a signed authorization or an entry code from the instructor.

Changes in instructor permission are to be approved by Dean.