# Revision to Catalog governing Graduation Policy, 3/15/18

## Current UM Catalog Language:

Catalog Governing Graduation

Students may graduate fulfilling University and departmental major requirements in any single University of Montana-Missoula catalog under which the student has been enrolled during the six years prior to graduation. (For example, the 2013-2014 catalog can be used through summer 2020). The student MUST meet major requirements under the same catalog under which the student is meeting University requirements (general education requirements); minor requirements may be satisfied under a different catalog within the six-year period. University or departmental requirements may change to comply with accreditation requirements, professional certification and licensing requirements, etc.

Students transferring to the University of Montana-Missoula may choose to graduate fulfilling requirements under the UM catalog in effect when they were enrolled at their original institution, provided the chosen catalog is not more than six years old at the time of graduation. Eligible students who choose an earlier catalog must notify the Admissions Office at the time of admission so their transfer work can be evaluated accordingly.

## Proposed new language and policy:

Catalog Governing Graduation

1. New and transfer students are assigned the catalog in effect at the time of their initial enrollment at the University of Montana – Missoula.
2. From the time an undergraduate student enrolls at UM, they have six full years to fulfill the curricular requirements stated in the catalog in effect when they enroll. (For example, the 2019-2020 catalog can be used through summer 2026). If a student does not complete the requirements in six years, they must select a subsequent catalog. This policy applies to all undergraduate students, including transfer students and those who change curriculum.
3. Students may elect to fulfill graduation requirements in any single University of Montana-Missoula catalog under which the student has been enrolled during the six years prior to graduation. Student (or their academic advisor) must contact the Office of the Registrar to request the change of catalog year.
4. Students must meet major, minor or certificate requirements under the same catalog in which the student is meeting university and general education requirements. However, if the start dates for the major, minor or certificate are different, the student may use a single catalog or request (through the Registrar, the request can be made by their advisor) to use separate catalogs. No student seeking dual majors, degrees, or certificates during the six-year period (that started upon their initial enrollment) may use more than two catalogs concurrently.
5. University or departmental requirements may change to comply with accreditation requirements, professional certification and licensing requirements, etc. The student may request a catalog change in that event, depending on the program, within the six year period.
6. Students should resolve issues or obstacles to fulfill graduation requirements with their academic advisor; and, they should be advised of their right to petition the UM Graduation and General Education Appeals Committee for exceptions to University requirements should obstacles to completion of a degree/certificate arise. Appeals must include exceptional, compelling, and verifiable reasons to set aside requirements.

Summary and rationale. The policy changes are: 1. Transfer students can no longer use UM catalogs in use while at their previous institution. This policy was unique to UM in the MUS (to our knowledge) and caused considerable confusion, variation in standards, problems with advising and administrative burden. To provide more consistent academic standards, better application of DegreeWorks, overall better advising and mitigate administrative burden, this provision has been changed.

2. The six-year term policy has not changed, nor has the right of the student to change catalogs. Indeed, with DegreeWorks, they can now change through their academic advisor.

3. The multiple program policy (students seeking more than one degree/certificate) has not substantially changed. Students are encouraged to use a single catalog (for clarity and better advising) even if they seek multiple degrees or certificates. Should they begin multiple programs within their six-year term at different times, they can either use their current catalog, or request to use up to two separate catalogs concurrently. Moreover, they are now advised of their right resolve conflicts in their program(s) through the UM Graduation Appeals Committee.