All approved curriculum items become official when published in the UM Catalog the following academic year.

Note: Level I and Level II curriculum items do not become official until also approved by the Board of Regents; see the [Provost’s Curriculum Website](#) for more information.

New degrees, new majors, new certificates, new minors and new concentrations associated with existing majors are immediately available to students once they are approved by the Board of Regents. However, students are subject to all applicable deadlines and fees (including, in particular, the deadline for filing graduation applications).

New courses cannot be offered as approved until the next fall semester when they appear in the academic year course catalog. Experimental (“Special Topics”) course numbers may be used to offer proposed new courses for the spring or summer semesters prior to the change appearing in the catalog (experimental courses may be offered up to four times).

One-time only (single semester approval) experimental general education courses require a justification to be offered earlier than the following fall.

Changes to existing courses, majors, minors, certificates, and concentrations are updated in the catalog on an academic year basis. Immediate implementation of changes to existing courses, major, minor, certificate, and concentration requirements is generally not allowed because of:

- Mid-academic year course changes would affect students already registered in the courses. This could cause schedule disruptions, difficulty in advising, and detrimental outcomes for students.
- Changes to program requirements could have a negative impact on students’ plan of study, advising, and timeline for graduation.