Prerequisite and Course Restriction Enforcement Technical Guide

Maria Mangold, Registrar
June 17, 2021

We start by defining the difference between a **course prerequisite** and a **course restriction.**

COURSE PREREQUISITE
The term "course prerequisite" refers to other courses that must be successfully completed prior to the beginning of the desired course and/or a minimum placement test score that must be achieved prior to course registration.

When a student attempts to register for a course with listed course prerequisites, Banner scans the student's transcript to determine if the student has:
(1) previously completed each listed course with a grade of C- or better (or higher if so specified in the course description); or
(2) is currently registered for the prerequisite course.
If either of these two conditions is met, Banner will permit the student to register.

Examples of course prerequisites:
ANTY 440 Cont. Issues of SSEA. 3 cr. *Offered intermittently.* *Prereq., ANTY 102H.* *An examination of the major issues that affect the contemporary experience of South and Southeast Asians.*

M162 Applied Calculus. 4 cr. *Offered autumn and spring.* *Prereq., ALEKS placement >= 5 or M02-Maplesoft Algebra score >= 19 or M03-Maplesoft Calculus score >= 10 or one of M 121, M 122 or M 151.* *Introductory course surveying the principal ideas of differential and integral calculus with emphasis on applications and computer software. Mathematical modeling in discrete and continuous settings. Intended primarily for students who do not plan to take higher calculus.*

"PREREQUISITE", "PREREQUISITE WITH CONCURRENCY", AND "COREQUISITE" DIFFERENCES
Prerequisite:
- Indicated by the phrase "Prereq." followed by the course(s) and/or test(s) in the course description
- A course or a test that must have been successfully completed **prior** to registering for the desired course. (Students currently enrolled in the prerequisite course will be permitted to register for the desired course. Those who fail to complete the course with a C- grade – or higher if specified by the department – will be dropped from the desired course.)

Prerequisite with Concurrency:
- The course description has the phrase "Prereq., or coreq.,"

Prerequisite and Course Restriction Enforcement Technical Guide

- Indicates that the course(s) that follow the phrase must be either successfully completed **prior** to registering for the desired course (Prerequisite) or the course can be taken **concurrently** with the listed course.
- Does not mean that the courses must be taken together in the same semester.
- Example:

BGEN 222 Business Models and Operations. 3 cr.
Offered autumn and spring. Prereq., or Coreq., STAT 216 or SOCI 202 or PSYX 222 or FORS 201. Operations are the activities of a business where products in the form of goods or services are produced. Inputs in the form of material, labor, capital, energy and ideas are transformed by these activities into products to serve the needs of customers.

Corequisite:
- Indicated by the phrase "Coreq." in the course description for the listed course is by itself (not in combination like "Preq. or Coreq.")
- The course(s) listed following the phrase **must** be taken at the same time (and therefore registered together) as the listed course
- The course may also have prerequisites in addition to the corequisite but the phrase "Prereq." and "Coreq." are separated in the course description
- Registering is very similar to a link section (all CRN's must registered at the same time
- Example:
  AHAT 210 Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries. 2 cr. *Offered autumn. Coreq., AHAT 213. Development of knowledge of prevention, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, emergency care of athletic injuries.*

COURSE RESTRICTION
When the course description lists certain student characteristics that must be met before a student can register for the course, such as student major, college (Mountain campus or Missoula College), and class standing, those are referred to as "course restrictions."

Registration restrictions can include the following:
    Major
    Class
    College (Used for UM, Missoula College, Continuing Education, etc.) Consent
    of Instructor

It should be noted that the restriction "and Consent of Instructor" will result in Banner not checking any other registration prerequisite or restriction until after the "and Consent of Instructor" is applied in CyberBear.

Example – Major Restriction:
MART 300 Visions of Film 3 cr.

Prerequisite and Course Restriction Enforcement Technical Guide

Offered spring. <mark>*Prereq., Art and Media Arts majors only.*</mark> *Study of major film theories that led to the constitution of visual film language and their application in contemporary film narrative and direction.*

Example - Consent of Instructor:

CCS 391 Climate Change Practicum. 2-4 cr. *Offered autumn and spring.* <mark>*Prereq., consent of instructor.*</mark> *Provides an opportunity for students to design and implement a capstone project involving creative solutions to climate change.*

And of course, many courses have both prerequisite and course restrictions:

PHL 449 History of Moral and Political Philosophy. 3 cr. *Offered intermittently.* <mark>*Prereq., upper-division standing and PHL 210E, or consent of instr.*</mark> *Reading and interpretation of selected writings in the history of moral philosophy and/or political philosophy.*

WRITING CLEAR AND ENFORCEABLE PREREQUISITES AND RESTRICTIONS

Two questions can be used to guide the writing of effective course descriptions that contain prerequisites and restrictions:

1. Is the prerequisite/restriction so clear that prospective students will understand what is required to meet it?; and
2. Is the prerequisite/restriction something that Banner tracks as part of the student's academic history or student characteristic?

In general, restrictions need to be specific, referencing only specific coursework that appears on the student's transcript, and make the proper use of logic operands (the "and" and "or" statements). Within its current functionality, Banner cannot count number of credits, or aggregate coursework, or even determine whether a student has taken a "200-level course in philosophy". **It can only scan a student's transcript to determine if a student has taken a specific course and achieved the specified grade in that course.**

CATALOG PREREQUISITE/RESTRICTION LANGUAGE WHICH CANNOT BE ENFORCED IN BANNER

References to "Experience":
*   "some experience with statistical methods and a programming language"
*   "computer programming experience in a language such as BASIC, Pascal, C, etc."
*   "significant programming experience"; "software engineering experience"; "database experience"

Vague or Too Expansive Language:
*   "an upper-division or graduate level course in microeconomics"
*   "a course in wildlife biology and/or conservation biology"

Prerequisite and Course Restriction Enforcement Technical Guide

- "Satisfactory score on placement exam" (the "satisfactory score" should be specifically listed such as "ALEKS with score of 2 or higher")
- "any geoscience courses below GEO 130" (does not define courses and GEO 130 was not in catalog)
- "WRIT 101 or equivalent"
- "Upper-division writing course"
- "one year of college math, including statistics"
- "and any ecology-themed course"
- "dance technique"
- "two inequality and social justice courses"
- "lower division CSD courses"
- "a course in statistics"
- "introductory chemistry and biology"
- "one course in biology"
- "and knowledge of basic trigonometry"
- "M 095 or above" (the specific courses should be specified since all course above a certain course would involve many lines of rules – there are over 100 courses above M 095 – that will be difficult to maintain and confusing for students to comprehend)

Information Not in a Student's Academic Record:
- "high school algebra"
- "working knowledge of high school physics and high school calculus"
- "basic computer and spreadsheet literacy"
- "working knowledge of Excel

Special Circumstances:
- "CSD 222 or graduate standing" – Banner cannot enforce conditional logic ("or") between two types of restrictions (in this exam – prerequisite course and level)
- "six credits of EVST" – number of credits cannot be used for evaluation
- "12 credits of psychology courses" – number of credits cannot be used for evaluation
- Coreq; C&I 301 or C&I 302 – Banner cannot enforce "or" logic between multiple corequisites