**Undergraduate Students and Timely Graduation**

Florida Atlantic University is committed to ensuring that students admitted as undergraduates will make progress toward their degree and graduate in a timely manner. The University will make every effort to employ the advising and academic support personnel necessary to ensure student success. Students also must take responsibility for timely graduation. They must learn their degree requirements as listed in the University Catalog; they must review their degree audit (DARS) at least once every semester; and they must meet with an academic advisor and review progress toward their degree at least once every semester.

**Expectations for Timely Graduation**

In their first semester at FAU, students will be given an “Expected Graduation Date,” which they are expected to follow as they complete their degree requirements. The following rules apply:

1. Students admitted to FAU as freshmen, as well as transfer students entering FAU with 30 or fewer credit hours, are expected to complete their degree program within four years. (The typical degree program requires 120 credit hours.) All freshmen are expected to maintain a full-time load (at least 12 credit hours each semester) in their first two semesters at FAU (fall and spring).
2. and other transfer students entering with 60 or more transfer credits their two yearsassuming that
3. Transfer students entering with 31-59 credit hours are expected to graduate in three years.

Students in degree programs requiring more than 120 credit hours may require 1-3 additional semesters, depending on the program.

To graduate within the timeframes specified above, students must successfully complete an average course load of 15 credit hours every semester. Students should enroll in summer courses so as to lighten their load in semesters when taking particularly difficult courses and to ensure progress toward their degree. All students entering FAU with fewer than 60 credit hours are required to earn a minimum of 9 credit hours in the summer.

All students who have completed 120 credit hours or more must only enroll in classes required for graduation. Exceptions are allowed with academic advisor approval only for those students needing to maintain a full-time course load due to financial aid or other requirements.

***Upon completing all requirements for their degree, students will graduate and have the opportunity to participate in commencement exercises. Those wishing to take additional courses after meeting degree requirements should consider a second baccalaureate degree, a graduate degree, or coursework taken as a non-degree seeking student.***

All students must understand that credits earned in excess of those hours required for the degree may be subject to excess hours surcharges mandated by the State of Florida. Students will need to carefully consider the ramifications of their course selection in consultation with an academic advisor. The addition of a minor or additional courses to their academic portfolio may sound appealing, but it also might result in considerable additional expense and a delay in degree completion. A change of major, too, may have the same results.

**Graduation Deadlines**

Students must complete all degree requirements within the timeframes specified below:

1. For all freshmen, as well as transfer students entering with 30 credit hours or fewer, a maximum of six years;
2. For transfer students entering FAU with an AA degree and other transfer students entering with 60 or more transfer credits, a maximum of four years; and
3. For transfer students entering with 31-59 credit hours, a maximum of five years.

Students who have completed all requirements for their first major by the deadlines stipulated above must graduate, regardless of missing requirements for a minor or second major. Students who have not completed their major requirements within the specified deadlines will graduate with a Bachelors of General Studies (BGS) degree, assuming they have met requirements for this degree.

**Minors, Second Majors, Dual Degrees, and Change of Majors**

To meet the graduation requirements outlined above, students must adhere to the following:

1. **Minors.** Students may take a minor only if the requirements for that minor can be completed without extending the anticipated graduation date. Students must declare their minor after earning at least 45 credit hours but before completing the final 30 credit hours required to graduate.
2. **Second Majors and Dual Degrees.** Students may pursue a double major or dual degree only if they are able to meet all requirements within no more than two additional semesters of the anticipated graduation date (total of 5 years for students admitted as freshmen, as well as transfer students entering with 30 or fewer credit hours; 3 years for AA transfers and other transfers entering with 60 or more credit hours; or 4 years for other transfers entering with 31-59 credit hours). Students must apply for the second major or dual degree after accumulating at least 45 credit hours but before completing the final 30 credit hours required to graduate.
3. **Change of Majors.** All students seeking to change their major must meet with an academic advisor and carefully devise a plan of study to ensure a timely graduation. Changes of majors will only be allowed if the student can meet all graduation requirements within no more than two additional semesters of the anticipated graduation date (total of 5 years for students admitted as freshmen or as transfer students with 30 or fewer credit hours; 3 years for AA transfers and other transfers entering with 60 or more credit hours; or 4 years for transfers entering with 31-59 credit hours).