

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD5023S
Date of Senate Approval 04/27/2023

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 38 (catalog policy): Clarify that Major Competency must be completed in residence, or overseen and monitored by UNC Asheville faculty if completed elsewhere

Effective Date: Fall 2023

1. Delete: On page 52, the entry under **Major Competency and Proficiency Examinations:**

Major Competency. A demonstration of competency in the major field (or, in the case of students not pursuing a traditional major program, in an area of academic concentration) is required of every degree candidate. The departmental faculty determines the form of the major field demonstration of competency. The Director of Interdisciplinary Studies will determine the form of demonstration for students pursuing interdisciplinary or individual degree programs. The demonstration of competency may take the form of a comprehensive examination that is oral, written or both; a research project; an analytical paper in which appropriate principles and methodologies are applied; or any other form established by the faculty group responsible for its administration. Writing and information literacy appropriate to the major field of study will be integrated into the degree candidate's demonstration of competency. As a condition of graduation, any academic deficiencies or weaknesses revealed by the demonstration of competency must be corrected to the satisfaction of the supervising faculty group.

Add: On page 52, in place of deleted entry:

Major Competency. A demonstration of competency in the major field (or, in the case of students not pursuing a traditional major program, in an area of academic concentration) is required of every degree candidate and must be completed in residence at UNC Asheville or preapproved and evaluated by UNC Asheville faculty, in consultation with the department chair, if completed elsewhere. The departmental faculty determines the form of the major field demonstration of competency. The Director of Interdisciplinary Studies will determine the form of demonstration for students pursuing interdisciplinary or individual degree programs. The demonstration of competency may take the form of a comprehensive examination that is oral, written or both; a research project; an analytical paper in which appropriate principles and methodologies are applied; or any other form established by the faculty group responsible for its administration. Writing and information literacy appropriate to the major field of study will be integrated into the degree candidate's demonstration of competency. As a condition of graduation, any academic deficiencies or weaknesses revealed by the demonstration of competency must be corrected to the satisfaction of the supervising faculty group.

Impact: The phrase in the paragraph, “established by the faculty group responsible for its administration” implies that the requirement must be completed at UNCA, but doesn’t explicitly state it. This addition makes it explicit that major competency must be completed at UNC Asheville, or completed in conjunction with oversight by our faculty.

Rationale: The Office of the Registrar has always operated under the assumption that students must complete the major competency requirements in residence under the supervision of UNC Asheville faculty. There have been two occurrences in the past year where departments approved students to complete competency requirements while studying abroad in non-faculty led programs. In both cases, the Registrar’s Office did not receive the Permission to Study Abroad forms until well after the student was abroad. Departmental faculty are working with these two students to ensure they completed what is necessary to be considered competent in the major, but this after-the-fact review should be avoided in the future. Explicitly stating the requirement must be completed in residence or under the supervision of our faculty using preapproved projects or courses will help to eliminate any potential issues with students meeting the competency requirements, as some may be close to graduation when they are abroad. This also will eliminate any potential accreditation issues if the catalog policy aligns with practice.