

III. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

REQUIREMENTS FOR A DEGREE

Credit Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts degree is awarded to students who successfully complete the required number of credits according to the distribution specified in the Bulletin of Information for the year in which they were admitted.

In the case of lecture courses, one credit is awarded for one semester-hour (equivalent to fifteen 45-minute periods of instruction) successfully completed. In the case of language courses, one credit is awarded for two semester-hours (equivalent to thirty 45-minute periods of instruction) successfully completed. In the case of physical education practice, one credit is awarded per course (thirty 45-minute periods of instruction).

Residence Requirements

Residence requirements refer to the amount of time a student must be enrolled in the university. To graduate, a student, in principle, must be enrolled for a total of four years (eight semesters) except students who want to graduate early. The time spent on leave of absence or suspension from the university will not be counted as part of the residence requirement.

A student's total period of residence at the university may not exceed eight years, excluding the period of time spent on leave of absence from the university.

Deciding Area and Major

Students accepted into the Faculty of Liberal Arts as freshmen will choose at the end of the first semester of their sophomore year to major in one of three areas (Comparative Culture, International Business and Economics, or Social Studies). In the case of Comparative Culture and Social Studies, students must also select a primary and secondary field within the area. At the same time, students are urged to decide which language is to be counted for the general language requirement. Please note that there are rules concerning the general language requirement (see pp. 38~39).

Students will be notified about the procedure during the first semester of the second year. Guidance for choosing a major (Sophomore Guidance) will be held every semester. For dates, see the Calendar for the academic year 2012. Students admitted as FLA transfer students at the junior level must indicate their intended major, fields and language at the time of entry.

N.B. The Chair of the Department of Liberal Arts is responsible for matters concerning freshmen and first-term sophomores. The Area Coordinators oversee matters concerning students who have declared an area and major. When, as specified below, students are directed to consult the Chair or Area Coordinator, they should go to the person responsible for students in their category.

Certificates in Japanese Studies and Japanese Language Pedagogy

In addition to their major, FLA students may also obtain a Certificate in Japanese Studies (日本研究履修証明) or a Certificate in Japanese Language Pedagogy (日本語教授法履修証明). For specifics, see pp. 70~74.

Preparation for Graduation

It is the student's responsibility to make sure that he/she has fulfilled all the requirements for graduation. To check their progress toward meeting graduation requirements, FLA students should regularly use the Loyola online self-evaluation system (Loyola, see p. 3). Any problems arising from the self-evaluation must be resolved with the Center for Academic Affairs before registration in a student's last semester. Refer to the online handbook of the self-evaluation system for details.

Early Graduation

To qualify for early graduation a student must complete at least three years (six semesters) of study, complete all credits required for graduation, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above. The FLA Faculty Meeting will review and decide upon applications for early graduation.

Application procedure:

1. If a student wants to graduate after completing six semesters, he/she should submit an application form to the FLA office by the end of the fifth semester.
2. If a student wants to graduate after completing seven semesters, he/she should submit an application form to the FLA office by the end of the sixth semester.

3. The applicant must be able to complete the credits required for graduation within the following term. Please note that the maximum number of credits for which an upper-class student may register is 24 credits per term. Thus students who wish to apply for early graduation at the end of the autumn term must have no more than 24 credits remaining. For those who want to apply for early graduation at the end of the spring term, the maximum number of outstanding credits is 30 (24 for spring term and 6 for the Summer Session).
4. The student must already have a GPA of 3.50 at the time of application.
5. Transfer students are not eligible for early graduation.

Transfer of Credits and Residency

Students who have studied at other universities before entering Sophia University may be eligible to transfer credits and residency time. There are two categories for transferring credits and residency.

Transfer of credits earned before entering as a freshman:

Up to 30 credits (nyūgakumae nintei) may be transferred. Students using this system may transfer credits, but not residency. However, students who meet all of the other qualifications may apply for early graduation (see pp. 13~14).

Transfer of credits and residency for students admitted as transfer students:

The number of credits to be transferred may not exceed half of the required number of credits for graduation. Decisions about the transfer of credits will be made after consultation with the student's Area Coordinator. As a general rule, a transfer student must have completed at least two years of university/college work as a regular student at another institution before entering Sophia. A transfer student may transfer a two-year period of time in residence at his/her previous university/college.

Hence acceptance as a third year student does not necessarily mean that you will automatically graduate in two years.

Application for transfer of credits

Students should apply for transfer of credits within three months of entering Sophia University. For that application, you need to bring the following documents from your previous university:

- (1) official transcript (in English)
- (2) grading system explanation
- (3) academic calendar

(4) syllabus of each course, containing brief course description and course schedule

For (3) and (4), the description must be for the year that you registered for the courses.