

Western Edge Graduation Compact Agreement

Students at Western Michigan University take a variety of paths to complete their bachelor's degrees. Those who commit to the Western Edge Graduation Compact Agreement ("Graduation Compact") in their freshman year at WMU and fulfill their obligations may complete their degrees within four years (or five years in some University-designated professional or other specialized majors and programs). Transfer students, students above the freshman level, and students who decide to change their majors and minors are also welcome to enter into Graduation Compacts to strategize on ways to earn their degrees as early as possible, with the understanding that timelines and other terms of the Graduation Compact may need to be adjusted based on various academic factors.

The Student's Obligations

Those students who choose to participate in the Western Edge Graduation Compact Agreement must work closely with their college and major and minor advisors in order to be sure that appropriate courses are taken in the proper sequence(s). You must:

- Meet with your advisor every semester you take classes in order to develop and monitor your Major/Minor course plan.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours or more in good standing per fiscal year in accordance with your Major/Minor plan, which may include summer terms.
- Within 30 days before the end of the spring semester of your first year, select and inform your advisor of your major and minor and stick with them (or earlier for highly structured programs), then maintain the grade point averages and other academic and conduct standards required by the major, the college, and the University.
- Meet/fulfill all college/department/ program conditions and obtain acceptance into the major or program which you wish to pursue.
- Be committed and be flexible. You may need to take a class at a time that isn't convenient, or be willing to substitute a course for one that is unavailable during a given semester or time of day.
- Register on time for the courses that fit your Plan.
- **When a required course is not available, you must communicate this problem to your major advisor as soon as you are aware of the unavailability by filing a *Notification of Unavailable Course* form with your academic major advisor. This requires you to register during your specified time as articulated by the Office of the Registrar.**

Western Michigan University's Obligations

- Provide an accurate graduation plan for your major/program and offer courses consistent with that plan.
- If WMU is unable to enroll you in a required course which you believe you need in order to graduate within your Graduation Compact time frame, we will:
 - a) work with the college to substitute the course, *or*
 - b) re-work the sequencing of your course(s) *or*
 - c) provide you with priority course registration for the following term, *or*

d) waive the required course if approved by the college and department in accordance with University requirements .

- Assure the availability of courses that will allow you to fulfill the conditions of your Graduation Compact in accordance with WMU procedures and policies and any adjustments as noted above.

WMU may determine that due to unusual circumstances, it is not feasible to enroll you in coursework in your major/program which may result in your being unable to graduate in the time specified in your Graduation Compact even after adjustments are made. Under such circumstances, and if WMU finds that it is unable to provide one of the options indicated above, if financially necessary, WMU will award a scholarship to cover the cost of credits at WMU for any required major or first minor courses required in accordance with your Graduation Compact that you have not been able to take. Any such scholarship is also conditioned on your meeting the requirements listed above, including filing a timely *Notification of Unavailable Course* form with an academic advisor before the completion of the registration period in which the course was first unavailable to you. (Note: This scholarship is for tuition only and does not include amounts for credits for any “substitute” class(es), course fees, books, etc.)

General Conditions

- This program is available only to WMU students who enroll as first-time, full-time students (including transfer students), beginning in the 2007-08 academic year and continue as full-time students at WMU through graduation
- This program does not relieve the student of the responsibility to adhere to all other academic and conduct requirements of WMU. Failure to adhere to such requirements will result in ineligibility or revocation of the benefits of your Graduation Compact and/or WMU obligations.
- WMU is not responsible for the decisions and actions taken by students that negatively impact their ability to graduate within the terms of their Graduation Compact, such as but not limited to conduct that results in student conduct or academic charges or sanctions, criminal charges or penalties, and/or other personal or external circumstances.
- If students changes their majors and minors, the major advisor (in conjunction with the college advisor) will review the courses taken to date to determine whether the college will continue to extend the graduation guarantee.
- **This compact does not guarantee that you will be admitted into any particular major, minor, program, department, or college. It is within the discretion of departments, programs, or colleges to make admission decisions on the acceptance of students. If you do not get accepted into the particular major, minor, program, department, or college of your choice, timelines of the Graduation Compact are likely to be adjusted, which will not obligate the University to provide the remedies stated above.**
- If you choose to opt out of the agreement, you may do so at any time by notifying your academic advisor and you will no longer be eligible for the benefits of the Graduation Compact. If you fail to uphold your end of the Graduation Compact plan compact you will be ineligible for benefits of the Graduation Compact program.

- If you choose to change your major, this invalidates the Graduation Compact as written. However, you are strongly encouraged to approach your College Advising Office to complete a new Graduation Compact which may or may not extend the time necessary to complete your degree.
- If you choose to study abroad you must have your program pre-approved by the Study Abroad Office in conjunction with your academic advisor in order to ensure compliance with the Graduation Compact.
- Individual colleges and departments may add conditions and details which are not part of this general agreement; please consult your college and/or department for any additional terms and conditions.
- By entering into the Western Edge Graduation Compact Agreement, the student is agreeing to all of the above terms and conditions and also understands and agrees that WMU is not responsible or liable for any other costs, fees, damages, loss of income or opportunity, and/or any other consequences except those expressly stated above.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

WIN _____ Compact Graduation Date _____

Major _____ Minor _____

Major Advisor/Chair Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name: _____

Minor Advisor/Chair Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name: _____

College Director of Advising Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name: _____

Honors College Advisor Signature _____ Date _____

(If Applicable)

Printed Name: _____

(NOTE; THIS WESTERN EDGE GRADUATION COMPACT AGREEMENT IS NOT BINDING ON WMU UNTIL SIGNED BY THE COLLEGE'S DIRECTOR OF ADVISING.)

20071210