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Proposal for Revision of Senate Rules Pertaining to the University Scholars Program

1. Purpose for submitting: Submitting for approval
2. Type of proposal: Campuswide policies (including Senate Rules)
3. Specific action being requested: New
- 4. Proposer: Padraic Kenney**
- 5. Affiliation of proposer: Graduate School**
6. Proposal submitted on behalf of another unit or organization Not applicable
- 6.a. If "Yes," name of the submitting unit/organization:

7. Rationale for proposal:

These revisions aim to widen the opportunities for qualified undergraduates to pursue Master's degrees on the accelerated path afforded by the University Scholars Program. Current language does not require that the Bachelor's and Master's degree be identical, but most USP's have been set up in this way. Small changes in descriptors are meant to encourage programs to be more creative. In addition, the GPA expectations for students applying for Master's programs has been changed to better reflect Master's admissions standards but doctoral UGPA expectations remain unchanged.

8. Does the proposal include a change to the Senate Rules? Yes
- 8.a. If "Yes," what section of the Senate Rules? Section 3.1.4.3.1.5 and 4.2.2.2.6 University Scholars Program
- 8.b. If "Yes," what is the requested effective date? Fall 2024**
9. If asking for feedback, how will the feedback be used? N/A

Proposed Language with Edits

3.1.4.3.1.5 University Scholars Program (USP)

Graduate program faculty have the authority through the University Scholars Program (USP) to accept into their graduate program current undergraduates in a related but not necessarily same field whose performance in appropriate coursework in their major, minor, or certificate is indicative of sufficient promise to ensure academic integrity and rigor of both degrees. [US: 4/10/2023]

4.2.2.2.6 University Scholars Program (USP)

[US: 12/8/2008]

4.2.2.2.6.1 Admissions to University Scholars Program (USP)

Applications to the University Scholars Program (USP) will follow current procedures and rules for admission to the Graduate School with the following additions: [US: 4/14/97; 4/10/2023]

1. The graduate program faculty concur the undergraduate has received appropriate preparation in their major, minor, or certificate from a related but not necessarily same field.
2. The program is open to undergraduates with senior standing who have completed at least 90 hours of course work and should have satisfied all UK Core requirements. Application to the program should be at the end of the student's junior year.
3. For Master's programs, the undergraduate grade point average (GPA) (UGPA) should be greater than or equal to 3.0 in the student's major and overall. For doctoral programs, the UGPA should be greater than or equal to 3.5 in the student's major and 3.2 overall.
4. Application to the USP will follow the current procedures for application to the Graduate School, subject to the above conditions. Admission decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean or their appointee. (See SR 5.5.1.5) [US: 9/13/82; US: 4/14/97]

Final Proposed Language

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