

**CERJ Advice on the American History and Institutions Requirement**  
**Informal Advice Issued: November 18, 2010 and January 12, 2011**  
**Formal Advice Issued: February 1, 2011**

The Davis Division Committee on Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction has been asked by the Division whether the universitywide American History and Institutions requirement for undergraduates can be waived in specific cases.

Advice

CERJ advises that the Executive Council may recommend to the President for graduation a student who has not completed the American History and Institutions requirement. Such a recommendation requires approval from the Faculty of the school or college of the student's major. Procedures for approval by a Faculty should be based on the Bylaws of that Faculty.

Rationale

The American History and Institutions requirement is stated in universitywide Regulation 638:

A knowledge of American history and of the principles of American institutions under the federal and state constitutions is required of all candidates for the degree of A.B., B.Arch., and B.S. This requirement may be met by passing an examination or examinations under the direction of the appropriate committee, or by passing any course or courses of instruction that may be accepted as satisfactory by that committee. The papers submitted in the examination shall be rated "passed" or "not passed."

The policy of the Davis Division has been that students may satisfy this requirement in a number of ways, a list of which is published in the *General Catalog*. There is at present no designated "appropriate committee" to administer an examination which would allow the requirement to be met.

The recommendation for graduation of a student who has not satisfied the American History and Institutions requirement would be under suspension of Senate Regulations. Since the Regulation applies only to undergraduate students, DDB 73(C)(6) requires that a recommendation by the Executive Council requires the approval by the "appropriate faculty." It seems clear that the appropriate faculty would be a faculty in a college or school in which the student is majoring.

Davis Division Bylaw 73(C)(6) states one of the charges of the Executive Council of the Division as follows:

To act on behalf of the Davis Division in recommending to the President of the University candidates for degrees and honors in a school, college or graduate division subject to the jurisdiction of the Davis Division. At its discretion, the Executive Council may recommend candidates under suspension of Divisional and Senate Regulations, provided that each such petition submitted by a candidate has been approved by the appropriate faculty or the Graduate Council. Such petitions may include those for the awarding of posthumous degrees. The committee, after forwarding its recommendations to the President, shall maintain in the Academic Senate Office a record of its actions, including separate lists of the names of candidates recommended under suspension of the Regulations.