



# Changes to Academics

## @Gustavus

*What will these changes mean for students?*



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# The Changes: What, Why, and How?

*On October 6, faculty endorsed a set of changes to the academic program at Gustavus.*





# Change #1

*How Gustavus counts credits*

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## **1 current Gustavus course = 4 credits**

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0.5 course = 2 credits

0.25 course = 1 credit

## **Reduction in zero credit courses**

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3 and 4 hour labs will carry 1 credit

## **Most 4 credit classes will meet 190–195 minutes per week**


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# Change #1: Why



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**This aligns with how most colleges and universities count credits.**



**It's easier to understand (no more .13 credits!) and better reflects the time you spend in class.**



**It will be easier and more straightforward to transfer credits to Gustavus.**



# Change #1: How



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**Students don't need to do anything!**

**The courses you've taken will automatically transition to the new system.**



**Students will need 128 credits to graduate.**

**This is equivalent to 32 of our current credits.**





# Change #2

## *Fewer General Education Requirements*

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### **Reducing the number of Gen Ed requirements**

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Expand current THEOL to Religious Studies & Philosophy

Require 1 non-English language course (102 level or higher)

Writing requirements embedded in courses

Eliminate WELBG requirement


**All 100- and 200-level courses without prerequisites will carry one Gen Ed designation**

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# Change #2: Why

- 
- Easier to understand what “counts” and find Gen Ed courses.**
  - More room to explore your interests.**
  - Easier to graduate in 4 years.**
  - Reducing the total number of courses also reduces expenses for the College.**

# Change #2: How



**Every course you've already taken will count toward graduation either as a Gen Ed, major requirement, or elective.**

**We will provide personalized help for those with questions.**





# Change #3

*Reduction in number of courses for some majors*

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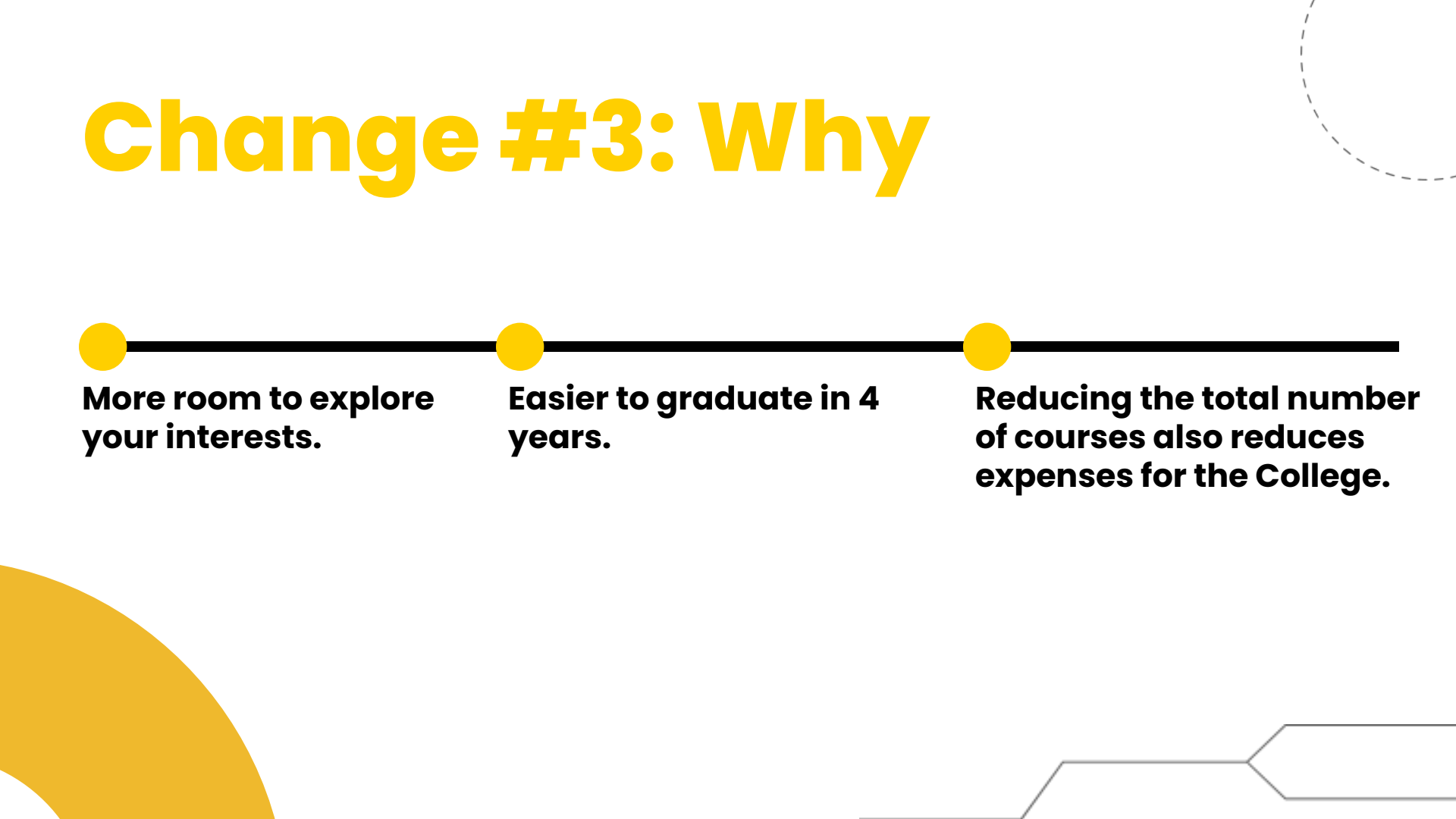
**Non-accredited majors capped at 48 credits**

**Requirements for externally accredited majors will remain the same**

Accredited majors include:

- Education
- Professional Chemistry
- Nursing
- Public Accounting

# Change #3: Why


- 
- More room to explore your interests.**
  - Easier to graduate in 4 years.**
  - Reducing the total number of courses also reduces expenses for the College.**

# Change #3: How



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**No majors are being eliminated through these changes.**



**If the requirements for your major are reduced, you will need to take fewer classes to finish your major.**



**For many students, major requirements will remain the same as they are now.**





# Change #4

## *Creation of a Signature Experience requirement*

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### **All incoming students\* will complete a Signature Experience**

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The Signature Experience connects academic knowledge with practical application.

Examples of a Signature Experience include:

- An internship
- A study away experience
- Collaborative research with a professor
- Certain designated classes

Students will receive a digital credential connected to the Signature Experience

All Signature Experiences will include intentional reflection on ethical thinking and justice


*\*Current students will not be required to complete a Signature Experience*

# Change #4: Why





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**The Signature Experience provides a real-world opportunity for students to prepare for professional life.**



**Putting these experiences under the umbrella of the Signature Experience program makes it easier for students to find and register for experiential learning opportunities.**



# Change #4: How



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**Current students are encouraged to complete an internship, research project, or study away experience.**

**As a current student, you are not required to complete a Signature Experience.**



**Beginning in Fall 2024, students who complete a Signature Experience will receive a digital credential that can be listed on your resume and LinkedIn profile to illustrate your accomplishment.**





# Change #5

## *Academic Calendar changes*

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### **15-week semesters in the Fall and Spring**

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Addition of weeklong fall break

Some changes to the last week of classes and finals week

### **Elimination of January Term**

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Commencement will take place in early May, creating more opportunity for students to begin summer work, internships, and research experiences

### **Creation of multiple summer terms (optional)**

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Opportunities for coursework, music tours, study away in May and June. These are not required and may result in additional costs on a per-course or per-experience basis.

# Change #5: Why



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**Eliminating January Term results in budget savings for the College.**



**End of Spring term aligns with other colleges so Gusties can better access internships, research, and summer work opportunities.**



**No more Saturday finals.**



**Creates more opportunities for experiences over fall break (research, field work, service trips, etc.)**






# Change #5: How



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**This January will be the last J-Term.**



**Short-term study away experiences, some field experiences, and music tours will move to May, June or the week-long fall or spring breaks.**



# Change #6

*Changes to when and how classes are scheduled*

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## **All classes will meet 2 or 3 times per week**

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No more classes that meet 4 or 5 times per week

M, W, F, classes meet for 65 minutes

T, Th, classes meet for 95 minutes

## **Protected time block for performing arts and athletics**

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With the exception of a few labs, no classes are scheduled from 3:30–5:30 p.m.

## **Sabbath break moves to twice a week**

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Sabbath will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30–11:50 a.m.

# Change #6: Why




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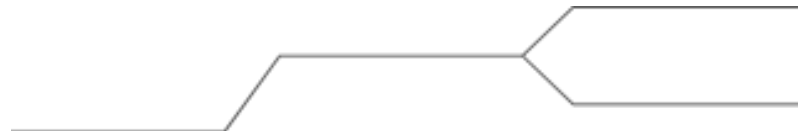

**Creates more consistency in how much time students spend in each class.**



**Alleviates scheduling conflicts between classes, which is a top academic complaint from students in our current system.**



**Creates the opportunity for faculty to move some things that currently take place out of class time into class meetings (e.g. group work, peer reviews, study sessions).**




# Change #6: How



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**Students will see these changes when they register for fall 2024 classes in the spring.**



**We'll be monitoring to ensure the new schedule alleviates scheduling conflicts.**

# New Scheduling Grid

|       | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                          | Thursday  | Friday  |
|-------|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 8:00  | 8:00-9:05 (A1)                                    | 8:00-9:35 (B1)                                    | 8:00-9:05 (A1)                     | 8:00-9:35 (B1)                                    | 8:00-9:05 (A1)                                    |
| 9:00  | 9:15-10:20 (A2)                                   |   | 9:15-10:20 (A2)                    |   | 9:15-10:20 (A2)                                   |
| 10:00 |   | 9:45-11:20 (B2)                                   |                                    | 9:45-11:20 (B2)                                   |   |
|       | 10:30-11:35 (A3)                                  |   | 10:30-11:35 (A3)                   |   | 10:30-11:35 (A3)                                  |
| 11:00 |   |   |                                    |   |   |
|       |   | Sabbath<br>11:30-11:50                            |                                    | Sabbath<br>11:30-11:50                            |   |
|       | 11:45-12:50 (A4)                                  |   | 11:45-12:50 (A4)                   |   | 11:45-12:50 (A4)                                  |
| 12:00 |   | 12:00-1:35 (B3)                                   |                                    | 12:00-1:35 (B3)                                   |   |
|       | 1:00-2:05 (A5)                                    |   | 1:00-2:05 (A5)                     |   | 1:00-2:05 (A5)                                    |
|       |   | 1:45-3:20 (B4)                                    |                                    | 1:45-3:20 (B4)                                    |   |
| 2:00  | 2:15-3:20 (A6)                                    |   | 2:15-3:20 (A6)                     |   | 2:15-3:20 (A6)                                    |
| 3:00  |   |   |                                    |   |   |
|       | 3:30-5:30<br>Performing Arts &<br>Athletics Block | 3:30-5:30<br>Performing Arts &<br>Athletics Block | Common Meeting<br>Time (3:30-5:00) | 3:30-5:30<br>Performing Arts &<br>Athletics Block | 3:30-5:30<br>Performing Arts &<br>Athletics Block |
| 4:00  |   |   |                                    |   |   |
| 5:00  |   |   |                                    |   |   |



# **Change #7**

*Advising changes*

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**Online form to declare a major or minor**

**Student no longer need an advisor to declare a minor**

**Creation of a new Advising Day each semester**


There will be no classes held on one day in the Fall and one day in the Spring, so students can meet with faculty, learn about departments and programs, and work on their academic plan during a dedicated time with built-in support from professors and staff.

# Change #7: Why





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**Makes it significantly easier to declare a major or minor.**



**Creates intentional space in each semester for students and faculty to focus on academic and career advising.**



# Change #7: How

**Beginning this Spring, students can declare their major(s) and minor(s) online.**

**We will hold our first Advising Day on Nov. 7, 2023\*. You can:**

- **Meet with your advisor**
- **Visit a department/program open house**
- **Attend events hosted by Career Development, CICE, and ASC.**

*\*Fall Advising Day won't fall on an election day in future years.*





# **Our Intention:**

**The changes won't delay  
or speed up intended  
graduation plans**



**Questions?**



**Thank you!**

