

GUMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: CMPE

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Proposed Effective Date: students entering Fall 2016

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Specifics (see instructions):

Current CMPE Gateway Requirements	Proposed New CMPE Gateway Requirements	Rationale for Change
A grade of B or better in CMPE212 and CMSC201	[deleted and replaced]	See below
A GPA of at least 3.0 in the following courses	A grade of B or better the following	The requirement changes to a minimum grade of B or better, compared with the previous requirement of a "B" average.
a) CMSC201	a) CMSC201	No change
b) CMPE212	b) CMPE212	No change
c) MATH152	c) MATH151	Replace MATH152 with MATH151 or its test or transfer equivalent
d) ENES101	d) PHYS121, and,	Replace PHYS122 with PHYS121 or its test or transfer equivalent
e) PHYS122	A grade of C or better in ENES101.	No change

Rationale (see instructions):

The current (and previous) Gateways suffer from two shortcomings. First, even well-prepared students cannot complete the Gateway requirements before their third semester. Second, historical data shows that students who do not pass the Gateway outright often choose (unwisely) to spend at least one semester, and often times more time, trying to obtain the "B" average by repeating one course after another. Each unsuccessful repeat causes the students to lose more time toward completion of their undergraduate degree.

This change is the culmination of a series of changes made to the CMPE Gateway in recent years. It supports the initiative of Dean Ross to have Gateways that can be completed in the first year of the curriculum, thereby permitting students to either move from "pre-CMPE" to CMPE majors in their second year, or to move to a different major early in their academic career. Students will be better served by an earlier, unambiguous Gateway that is not subject to manipulation. The requirement of "B" or better is somewhat more stringent, but much more definitive, than the current requirement of a "B" average. Note that the new requirement boils down to requiring a "B" in MATH151 and a "B" in PHYS121, as "B" grades are already required for CMSC201 and CMPE212. Research (via REX) shows that in excess of 90% of students who graduate in five years have met this new requirement.

This change was reviewed by the CMPE Undergraduate Program Committee in February 2016 and approved in March 2016.