Exceptions from the Audit How-To Guide

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Overview

Intended Audience

- Advisors
- Department chairs and program leaders
- Department staff

Background

Advisors may now request exceptions from the audit to approve major and minor substitutions. Paper major contracts are no longer required – the DARS is following the established catalog curriculum. Exceptions to that curriculum may be submitted via DARS. Requests are routed to the department chair or program leader for review. If approved, requests are routed to the Office of the Registrar for processing. The requestor will be notified of the final decision via email.

General Education & All University Requirement exceptions

Important Note: This process should not be used to request changes to GE & All University Requirements (GEAR). Exceptions to HSU, CSU & California Title 5 policies (which includes GEAR) are rarely approved and require a formal Petition for GEAR Course Substitution with justification.

Transfer courses & pre-requisite approval details

Registrar staff will process a pre-requisite equivalency when you swap in a transfer course for a major course “owned” by your department (offered within your department). Examples:

✅ A Biological Sciences advisor swaps for a BIOL, BOT or ZOOL course and that is approved by the department. This is processed as a pre-requisite equivalent.

❌ A Biological Sciences advisor swaps a CHEM, PHYX, or MATH course. This will only be processed as a major substitution – it meets major/graduation requirements, but does not meet pre-requisite checking.

If a course outside of the major department is needed as a pre-requisite, the student must submit a Petition for Transfer Course Equivalency signed by the department chair who “owns” that course. Explain to the student that they will need to petition for pre-requisites (or else will need permission numbers at the time of registration in any courses needing that pre-requisite for every subsequent semester).
Overview – How to access DARS

**Navigation via Advisee Roster:** DARS exceptions can be accessed via the Advisee Roster in Faculty Center

**Navigation via myHumboldt:** Find the DARS pagelet, click View Audits & Plans.

*Tip:* save the DARS pagelet to your home tab if needed by going to the Faculty & Staff Resources tab, find the DARS pagelet and click the plus “+” icon to save to your myHumboldt home tab for the future.

How to run DARS and add an Exception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Click the <strong>Students</strong> icon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Enter HSU ID number, click <strong>Submit</strong> button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Click <strong>Run Declared Programs</strong> button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>DARS will load, then click the <strong>View Audit</strong> button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>When audit opens, click on the bar graph next to <strong>Major Courses</strong> or <strong>Minor courses</strong> depending on where you want to request an exception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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6. Click the **Enter Exception Mode** button

7. Pick which exception to use. Exceptions types are:
   a. Add Course Exception (green plus-sign)
   b. Remove Course Exception (green minus-sign)
   c. Swap Course Exception (green stacked arrows)
   d. Advanced – rarely used: Edit Requirement or Edit Sub-requirement (pencil icons)

8. Follow prompts in exception dialogue box. See [Exceptions by type – detailed instructions for each type](#) below, or simply follow the on-screen instructions.
9. On the Save & Verify page, update the **Audit Note and Memo**.
   e. Audit note: text displays on DARS after approval
   f. Memo: internal memo to chair and Registrar staff.
      i. Memos are helpful to communicate the intent of your exception, or to communicate with your department chair
      ii. If a transfer course is involved, you must include a memo to restate which course is being used. **It’s critical to leave details here - especially with transfer credit. We need advisors to specify exactly which transfer course was used again the memo area.** Note: Although the advisor pulls in a specific course through your interface and it seems straightforward, when the exception comes through the workflow to Registrar staff, it’s not always clear exactly which transfer course was chosen.
10. Click the **Save & Add Exception** button.
11. Click the **Exit Exception Mode** button in the top right corner of the audit when all exceptions are proposed.
12. You will be notified of the final decision via email. Approved exceptions will appear on the audit after processing is complete.

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**Planned courses – how to enter planned exceptions**

The general instructions above show you how to enter exception mode from the regular “Audits” tab – the Audits tab includes Completed & In Progress courses only. If you would like to enter exception mode using planned courses (including completed and in progress), then you need to view the Plans audit:

a. go to the **Plans** tab,
b. select plan (primary plan should be starred as preferred),
c. click the **View Audit with Planned Courses** button,
d. Click the **Enter Exception Mode** button and follow the steps above.
General Exception FAQs

What if I can’t figure out which exception to use?
First, we recommend calling the Transfer & Grad Counselor who works with your department.

However, if you are feeling stuck and in a time crunch, just pick the “edit” exception type (pencil icon) and leave really good memo notes – even if it’s not the right “type” that’s ok. As long as you leave good memos to communicate to the chair and the Registrar’s Office what you are trying to accomplish we will find a way to make it work.

What if the student has not yet declared the major or minor?
Advise students to declare the planned major or minor first to secure catalog rights. However, if needed, you can run a “what if” audit for the planned major/minor, choose the current term as catalog year and proceed. Advise student to declare the major/minor ASAP to secure catalog rights.

Why does DARS say “no default programs found”?
This is likely a former student or a future student who has not yet enrolled. Note that running a “what-if” audit is NOT recommended in this case, as the student may have limited catalog rights based on their dates of attendance. Contact Registrar staff.

What happens when I save an exception? Where does it go?
You can click the link in the email to visit the “Exception Status” page and view more details, or bookmark the "Exception status" page.

You will receive a confirmation email that the exception was submitted. The department chair will also receive an email notice that there is an exception awaiting approval. Once the chair has made a decision on the exception, a notification will be sent to the appropriate Transfer & Graduation Counselor (TGC) in the Office of the Registrar for processing.

How to view total exceptions for a student?
You could look up all requested exceptions using the Exception status page (more on that later in the guide), however to see which exceptions are currently active for a student you just need to run a DARS. Then click the Exceptions tab in the top menu bar.

Too many emails? Try a Gmail filter
Larger departments or advising caseloads may find they are getting too many emails. If that is the case, you should setup some filters in Gmail. The exact setup will depend on your email preferences, but one recommended set up is outlined below.

Follow these steps to set up a Gmail filter to keep these out of your inbox, except we will still make sure any denied requests still route to inbox since those may need review:

- Open and view one of the emails. Click the More icon (right corner, three vertical dots). From the More drop down menu, select “Filter messages like this”.

- Enter the following:
  From: udirect@humboldt.edu
  Has the words: DARS Exception Process

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Doesn't have: “denied” ← (be sure to include quotation marks)

- Click **Create Filter**. Then decide what to do (apply label, mark as read, skip the inbox, etc. – whatever you would like).

- Click **Create Filter** again to save settings.

**How to check the status of an exception – the Exception Status Page**

URL: [https://apex.humboldt.edu/ords/f?p=121:1](https://apex.humboldt.edu/ords/f?p=121:1)

Access to this page is driven by your role – advisors, department chairs/program leaders, department coordinators, and Registrar staff will have access to this page.

Enter student ID number in search bar and click go to review the status.

Look at Department action to see if/when the chair or program leader entered a decision.

Check the Registrar Action column to see if/when Registrar staff took action to finalize the request.
### Exceptions by type – detailed instructions for each type

**Add Course Exceptions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Steps</th>
<th>Screenshot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Click the Add Course button (“+”/plus symbol) next to the appropriate requirement.</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Add Course Exception Screenshot" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Enter the course information, or select from a list of courses the student has already completed (or planned, if using the Plan Audit). Click the green plus-sign button.</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Add Course Exception Screenshot" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Verify that the correct course is being proposed, then click the Next button.</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Add Course Exception Screenshot" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. On the **Verify & Save** tab, confirm the proper course appears.

5. Add **Audit Note**

6. Add **Memo**: Be explicit in the memo to help clarify your request and ensure it is processed appropriately.

7. Click green **Save & Add Exception** button to route the request to the department chair.

8. A confirmation message will display and you will receive an email confirmation.
## Remove Course Exceptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Steps</th>
<th>Screenshot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Click the <strong>Remove Course button</strong> (&quot;-&quot;/minus symbol) under the appropriate major (or minor) requirement.</td>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Screenshot 1" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> Select the course you want to remove by clicking on the red X button next to the desired course.</td>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Screenshot 2" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.</strong> Click the green Next button</td>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Screenshot 3" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. On the Verify & Save tab, confirm the proper course appears

5. Add Audit Note (will show up on DARS after approval)

6. Add Internal Memo: Be explicit in the memo to help clarify your request and ensure it is processed appropriately.

7. Click green Save & Add Exception button to route the request to the department chair.

8. A confirmation message will display and you will receive an email confirmation.
### Swap Course Exception

#### Process Steps

1. **Click the Swap Course button** (two-way arrows symbol) under the appropriate major (or minor) requirement.

   ![Swap Course Exception Process Steps Screenshot 1](image1.png)

2. Select the course that you want to swap out by clicking on the red X button next to the desired course.

3. **Click the Next button** to move to tab 2.

   ![Swap Course Exception Process Steps Screenshot 2](image2.png)

4. If the course hasn’t been taken yet, enter the dept. prefix and course number you want to swap in and click the Add button (plus sign).

5. If the course was taken previously (at HSU or elsewhere), select from a list of courses the student has already completed (including transfer credit). Click the Add button (plus sign).

6. **Click the Next button** to move to tab 3.

   ![Swap Course Exception Process Steps Screenshot 3](image3.png)
7. On the Verify & Save tab, confirm the proper courses appear.

8. Add Audit Note (will show up on DARS after approval)

9. Add Internal Memo: Be explicit in the memo to help clarify your request and ensure it is processed appropriately.

10. Click green Save & Add Exception button to route the request to the department chair.

11. A confirmation message will display and you will receive an email confirmation.
Department Chair/Program Leader – How to enter a decision

When advisors submit exceptions, the chair will receive email notifications with a link to the Pending Department exceptions queue.

There is no need to save or follow up on every single “awaiting approval” email, just click the link the most recent “Awaiting Approval” email.

Or you can bookmark the following link and it will always take you to the most current version of your pending queue of exceptions: https://apex.humboldt.edu/ords/f?p=121:1

Chair/Program Leader FAQs:

What happens when a chair/program leader submits an exception request? Do I have to approve my own requests?
When the chair/program leader submits an exception for a program (and they are the ‘approver’ for that major or minor) it will automatically route to a graduation counselor. No, you do not have to re-approve your own requests. Note that if you are requesting a transfer swap as chair/program leader, the system automatically assumes you’d like this reviewed for future articulation.

What happens when a chair/program leader denies a request?
An email is sent back to the original requestor. You may add details in the memo which will be sent back to the requestor.

The Registrar’s Office is not notified but can view the status on the Exception status page (as can anyone else with access).

What is the “articulation approval” used for?
When approving a Swap exception request, you will be prompted to select if this substitution should be considered for future articulation or if this is a one-time exception.

For HSU courses, always select One-Time. If you are routinely making HSU-to-HSU course swaps, you may want to consider submitting a formal curriculum change request to the Academic Programs office.

For transfer courses, select either One-Time exception or Future Articulation to have the articulation team consider this course for articulation in the future. Selecting future articulation does NOT automatically approve the articulation, but the course is put into a queue for review.

Department Chair step-by-step instructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Steps</th>
<th>Screenshot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Visit the Department Pending Exception site to see all pending exceptions</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Department Pending Exceptions" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Review the description, audit note, requestor and memo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3. Three buttons to choose from: Approve, Deny or Run Audit.

“Run Audit” button will show the current DARS (without the exception).

4. Enter your decision – click Approve or Deny buttons. You can add additional text to the memo field (up to 255 characters). Approved exceptions are sent to the Registrar’s Office.

Note: for SWAP approvals, you also must choose an “Articulation approval” status.