Requisites represent the academic preparation needed to be successful in a course. They are enforced via the enrollment system, meaning a student who attempts to enroll in a course but lacks the requisite preparation will be barred by the system from enrolling.

It is assumed that courses in progress at the time of enrollment will be completed successfully and thus fulfill a course requisite. Course administrators/departments may check the completion of these courses and may drop enrolled students who failed or dropped a requisite course and notify them accordingly.

There are occasions when a student may have the necessary preparation to be successful in a course, but this preparation is not easily identifiable in their student record. An example would be earned transfer credit that did not equate to a UW-Madison course. Students may ask the course instructor for permission to enroll in a course for which they do not meet the enforced requisite. Instructor permission will override any restrictions on enrollment the class might have.