

Memorandum

To: Faculty Executive Committee

From: FAPSC, Chair Stuart Smith

Date: 2.23.11

RE: Motion from FAPSC

Motion: Approve removal of 2 course maximum for credit transfer to satisfy General Education requirement. Motion passed 2-11-11.

Currently this section states:

Transfer of General Education Equivalent Courses. In cases where students are transferring in courses that are one (1) credit hour less than the equivalent courses at UNC Charlotte (typically from schools on the quarter system), students may use a maximum of two (2) such courses to fulfill General Education requirements.

Proposed revision to state:

Transfer of General Education Equivalent Courses. In cases where students are transferring in courses that are one (1) credit hour less than the equivalent courses at UNC Charlotte (typically from schools on the quarter system).

Rationale:

RE: Request to Modify Existing Quarter Hour Policy for General Education

Dean John Smail and representatives from the Office of the Registrar and Undergraduate Admissions met several times over the fall semester to discuss issues with students who transfer in quarter hour courses to the university. As a result, this group is proposing a modification to the existing General Education policy concerning the use of quarter hour courses in meeting general education requirements. I fully concur with their request. Below is the existing policy taken directly from the catalog.

Transfer of General Education Equivalent Courses. In cases where students are transferring in courses that are one (1) credit hour less than the equivalent courses at UNC Charlotte (typically from schools on the quarter system), students may use a maximum of two (2) such courses to fulfill General Education requirements.

There are fewer than 20 students per year affected by the current policy. However, this policy is confusing and problematic on several levels for these students, their advisors and the offices involved in applying transfer credit. Below are examples of related issues:

1. For students who are planning to transfer to UNC Charlotte, they plan their curriculum at their current institution by viewing our online transfer credit evaluator. The evaluator tool provides a

listing of courses at their university and the equivalent course at UNC Charlotte, some of which are noted to meet general education requirements. Students enroll in these courses at their institution with the assumption that they will receive the equivalent course credit and meet specific general education requirement.

2. Since many advisors on campus are unaware of this rarely used policy, students are often misadvised or not informed of how this policy affects them until they apply for graduation.
3. Transfer students with credit from quarter hour institutions affected by this rule are often required to re-take the course that they transferred in over again here in order to meet the general education requirement. This action then forces the Office of the Registrar to remove the duplicate credit from the student's record, thereby increasing the students' time to graduation.

The credit from quarter hour institutions is carefully evaluated by our expert transfer credit evaluators who fairly assess the equivalent credit hours and course content. The evaluators use a quarter hour to semester hour conversion chart to ensure that quarter hour courses are not given equal semester hours. For example, a 5 hour quarter class is equivalent to a 3 hour semester course; a three hour quarter class is given 2 semester hours of credit.

Since the quarter hour transfer credit has already received a fair evaluation, the general education policy further penalizes the student by requiring them to retake additional courses even though they have already acquired the course content knowledge at their quarter hour institution.

We request that the policy be modified to remove the course limit maximum (2) that can be used toward general education.