

TRANSMITTAL AND ABSTRACT OF SENATE REPORT

Date Presented to the Senate: April 23, 2009

Presenter: Claire Moses, Chair of the Senate APAS Committee

Subject of Report: Residency Requirement – Final 60-Hour Rule

Senate Document Number: #07-08-14

Voting: **(a) on resolutions or recommendations one by one, or**
 (b) in a single vote
 (c) to endorse entire report

A. Statement of Issue:

The goal of this proposal is to make changes to the current University regulation that the final 30 credits in an undergraduate's course of study be taken at this campus.

B. Recommendations:

The following text is proposed as a replacement for the entry in the Undergraduate Catalog labeled "Residency Requirement – Final 30-Hour Rule." This entry is the first of several "Degree Requirements" found in Chapter 4 of the Undergraduate Catalog, "Registration, Academic Requirements, and Regulations/Degree Requirements/Residency Requirement – Final 30-Hour Rule," and is intended to replace all 3 paragraphs (paragraphs a, b, and c) of that section. Please take note that the heading should now read "Residency Requirement – Final 60-Hour Rule."

1. Residency Requirement – Final 60-Hour Rule

To graduate with a University of Maryland degree, students are required to have a minimum of 120 credit hours of coursework taken either on this campus or approved here for transfer credit; to have met all of the requirements of the General Education Program, either by transfer or resident courses; and to have fulfilled all of the requirements of a major.

Of the final 60 credit hours of the student's course of study, 30 must be taken on this campus. The requirement that half of the final 60 credit hours be taken on campus ensures that students earning a Maryland degree will take a substantial number of advanced courses in the major and as electives at the University of Maryland. At the same time, this requirement allows for students to take part in opportunities such as Study Abroad and off-campus internships and exchange programs during the senior year, as well as the junior year. Permission to transfer upper-level credits from another

institution during the final 60 credits of study is not automatic, but requires approval of the major department.

2. Credit Requirements

While several ...

[resume existing copy]

C. Committee Work:

The Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee, at the request of the Senate Executive Committee, has considered the current university regulation that the final 30 credits be earned on this campus and has determined to request a change to this requirement.

The 2007-2008 APAS Committee was originally charged with Senate Document #06-07-51 during the 2007-2008 Academic Year. The APAS Committee began working on this topic during the 2007-2008 Academic Year, but did not come to a final conclusion. Therefore, the 2008-2009 APAS Committee continued to research the topic, delving into the issues surrounding transfer credit, Advanced Placement credits, Study Abroad, and other pertinent situations that are affected by this rule.

The 2008-2009 committee identified several reasons that a student may want to take her or his final credits elsewhere. The most frequent of students' requests to transfer credits from some other institution appears to be the student's desire to participate in a Study Abroad program in the senior year; but students have made requests to transfer their final credits for other reasons as well. Some students have wished to study elsewhere, in their senior year, because they have married and are moving to join a spouse. Other students—with as few as 6 credits remaining—have moved to another city to start a job. The committee believes that these requests (and others we did not consider) are reasonable and that the current policy is unnecessarily rigid.

One compelling discovery that influenced our recommendation was that currently students may transfer up to 90 credits from another institution and thus graduate with a University of Maryland degree having taken as few as 30 credits on this campus. We compared this case to that of the student who has earned 105 credits on this campus and wishes to earn the remaining 15 (a typical semester) in a study abroad program. The former case is permitted under the present policy, while the latter is not. We agreed that this disparity is unjustifiable.

The committee did recognize that departments may have varying views on the value of upper-level credits taken elsewhere. For example, a foreign language department might encourage students who were unable to study abroad in their junior year to do so in the senior year; the physics department, however, may offer some of the courses required for the major in the student's final year and be justified in wishing these courses to be taken at this campus. The APAS Committee dealt with this problem by making the permission of the department and fulfillment of all the requirements of the major the crucial elements in the recommended policy. Also, the committee recognized that taking upper-level credit hours on this campus is important for any University of Maryland diploma. The committee's request that the current policy be modified is intended merely to add flexibility.

At its meeting on February 6, 2009, the APAS Committee drafted the "Residency Requirement – Final 60-Hour Rule." The committee subsequently worked with the Office of Undergraduate Studies and the Registrar's Office to ensure that the language was satisfactory and suitable.

D. Alternatives:

The text of the Undergraduate Catalog labeled “Residency Requirement – Final 30-Hour Rule” could remain as is.

E. Risks:

There are no associated risks.

F. Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications.

MEMO

TO: Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Claire Moses, Chair, Senate APAS Committee

DATE: April 6, 2009

SUBJECT: A proposal to make changes to the current University regulation that the final 30 credits in an undergraduate's course of study be taken at this campus.

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2. Credit Requirements

While several ...

[resume existing copy]

Rationale

Discussion: The Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee, at the request of the Senate Executive Committee, has considered the current university regulation that the final 30 credits be earned on this campus and has determined to request a change to this requirement.

In response, the committee has identified several reasons that a student may want to take her or his final credits elsewhere. The most frequent of students' requests to transfer credits from some other institution appears to be the student's desire to participate in a Study Abroad program in the senior year; but students have made requests to transfer their final credits for other reasons as well. Some students have wished to study elsewhere, in their senior year, because they have married and are moving to join a spouse. Other students—with as few as 6 credits remaining—have moved to another city to start a job. The committee believes that these requests (and others we did not consider) are reasonable and that the current policy is unnecessarily rigid.

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Degree Requirements

The requirements for graduation vary according to the character of work in the different colleges, schools, departments and academic units. It is the responsibility of the colleges, schools, departments and other academic units to establish and publish clearly defined degree requirements. Responsibility for knowing and meeting all degree requirements for graduation in any curriculum rests with the student. Specific degree requirements are listed in this catalog under the college and/or department as appropriate.

Each student should check with the proper academic authorities no later than the close of the junior year to ascertain his or her standing with respect to advancement toward a degree. For this purpose, each student should be sure to review their semester grades and unofficial transcript on the MyUM website (www.my.umd.edu) at the close of each semester or request a semester grade report.

1. Residency requirement - Final 30-Hour Rule

a. All candidates for University of Maryland, College Park, degrees should plan to take their final 30 credits in residence since the advanced work of their major study normally occurs in the last year of the undergraduate program. Included in these 30 semester hours will be a minimum of 15 semester hours in courses numbered 300 or above, including at least 12 semester hours required in the major field (in curricula requiring such concentrations).

b. A student who at the time of graduation will have completed 30 credit hours in residence at the University of Maryland, College Park, may, under unusual circumstances, be permitted to take a maximum of 8 of the final 30 credits of record, comprising no more than two courses, at another institution. A student who has completed 75 credit hours in residence at the University, may, under unusual circumstances, be permitted to take a maximum of 16 of the final 30 credits of record, comprising no more than 4 courses, at another institution. In such cases, written permission must be obtained in advance from the dean and chair/director of the academic unit from which the student expects to graduate. Any course taken at another institution and intended to satisfy a specific major requirement at the University of Maryland must be approved as an equivalent course by the chair/director and the dean. Normally, no more than two courses required by the major, including major and supporting courses, will be approved. Exceptions beyond the articulated maximum credits and/or courses will be made only under highly unusual circumstances; requests for an exception must be made through the Dean's office to the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

c. For students in the combined three-year, preprofessional programs, the final 30 hours of the 90-hour program at the University of Maryland, College Park, must be taken in residence.

2. Credit Requirements

While several undergraduate curricula require more than 120 credits, no baccalaureate curriculum requires fewer than 120. No baccalaureate will be awarded in instances in which fewer than 120 credit hours have been earned. It is the responsibility of each student to familiarize himself or herself with the requirements of specific curricula. The student is urged to seek advice on these matters from the departments, colleges, or the Office of the Dean for Office of Undergraduate Studies. To earn a baccalaureate from the University of Maryland, College Park, a minimum of 30 credits must be taken in residence.

3. Enrollment in Majors

A student who is eligible to remain at the University of Maryland, College Park, may transfer among curricula, colleges, or other academic units except where limitations on enrollments have been approved. By the time they complete 60 credits, students are