

DATE: 11-April-2011
TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Nancy Tate, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS REQUIRED FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

At their October 2010 meeting, the Kansas Board of Regents approved a request to modify the Regents' policy on minimum credit hour requirements for a baccalaureate degree, reducing the minimum semester credit hours required for attainment of this degree from 124 to 120. The rationale given for recommending this change is that it will make Kansas' requirement consistent with the majority of other states across the country (currently 39 states have adopted the 120-hour minimum for their baccalaureate degrees). The Regents' staff contends that, "given the high degree of student mobility today and the fact that many receive bachelor's degrees from an institution other than the one at which they began study, establishing consistency with regard to minimum baccalaureate degree requirements should benefit students by creating improved efficiency and transferability of credits." This recommendation was supported by the chief academic officers since the 120 credit hour requirement is a minimum requirement and "no academic program at a Kansas university will be required to make program changes based on this proposed policy." In addition, the KBOR minimum credit hour requirement for an associate degree is 60 credit hours.

In order to retain comparable standards with our Regents' colleagues, I am proposing that Washburn modify our existing minimum credit hours for attainment of a baccalaureate degree from 124 to 120 and from 62 to 60 for attainment of an associate degree based on the same rationale. Approving this change would result in modification to the following areas in the University Catalog:
Under University Requirements Common to All Bachelor Degrees (pg. 73-74):

Current:

1. A minimum of 124 semester hours of credit is required for graduation.

Proposed:

1. A minimum of 120 semester hours of credit is required for graduation. Some baccalaureate degrees may require additional hours. See specific degree/major.

Current:

2. End of first bulleted item: Students should be aware that EN 100 is considered a remedial course and does not count towards the 124 credits required for graduation.

Proposed:

2. End of first bulleted item: Students should be aware that EN 100 is considered a remedial course and does not count towards the total credit hours required for graduation.

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Current:

12. At least 60 hours of the 124 hours required for the baccalaureate degree must be taken at a 4 year college or university.

Proposed:

12. At least 60 hours of the total credit hours required for the baccalaureate degree must be taken at a 4 year college or university.

Current:

14. A double major may be completed within the 124 hour total by meeting all the requirements of the two majors.

Proposed:

14. A double major may be completed within the 120 hour total by meeting all the requirements of the two majors.

Current:

15. Any candidate for a second baccalaureate degree must meet the specific requirements for both degrees and present a minimum of 154 hours of credit. No more than 40 hours of this total can be ungraded.

Proposed:

15. Any candidate for a second baccalaureate degree must meet the specific requirements for both degrees and present an additional 30 credit hours beyond the first baccalaureate degree.

Current:

19. Candidates for degrees other than the BBA degree are limited to a maximum of 21 hours of Accounting (AC) and Business (BU) courses within the 124 minimum required for graduation.

Proposed:

19. Candidates for degrees other than the BBA degree are limited to a maximum of 21 hours of Accounting (AC) and Business (BU) courses within the 120 minimum required for graduation.

Under University Requirements Common to All Associate Degrees (pg. 74):

Current:

1. A minimum of 62 hours is required.

Proposed:

1. A minimum of 60 hours is required. Some associate degrees may require additional hours. See specific degree/major.

As I stated previously, no existing degrees would be required to reduce the total hours required for graduation; however, it would be possible for newly proposed degrees to come forward with a minimum requirement of 60 or 120 credit hours or for existing degrees to request a reduction to 60 or 120 credit hours if desired.

I would appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my proposal.

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