

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS AND STANDARDS

Minutes

March 10, 2015

PRESENT: Lisa Armistead(guest), Allison Calhoun-Brown, David Cheshire, Danielle Churchill(guest), Patrick Freer, Gerald Gay, Paula Gordon, Baotong Gu, Sekeia Harris(guest), Jennifer Hill(guest), Peter Lyons(guest), John Medlock, Joe Perry, Chester Phillips, Tim Renick, Shari Schwartz, Caroline Sullivan, Brian Thoms, Barbara Warner, Sara Weigle, Yi Zhao,

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting were approved as amended. The attendee list was updated to reflect attendees not included as being present. Dr. Weigle reminded members to make sure they sign the attendance sheet.

REVISED MOTION ON TRANSIENT CREDIT

A motion on transfer credit for transient students was approved at the last Admissions and Standards meeting but was sent back from the Senate Executive Committee. Tim Renick and Allison Calhoun-Brown made additional revisions to address the Executive Committee's concerns. Dr. Renick presented the revised motion. The motion was approved as amended.

Motion

Effective immediately

Section 1320.20 of the Undergraduate Catalog is modified as follows:

Additions Deletions

Section 1320.20 Transfer Credit for Transient Students

Transient students are Georgia State University degree-seeking undergraduates who enroll temporarily at another institution with the intention of returning to Georgia State. Georgia State remains the student's home institution. Terms other than transient (such as visiting student, unclassified student, or special student) may be used at other institutions.

*These regulations do not apply to credit earned through cross registration, which is **not** considered resident credit.*

~~A degree-seeking undergraduate student who wishes to be a transient student must obtain a transient letter from the Office of the Registrar. A transient letter is a type of letter of certification that offers information regarding a student's academic standing and is an official recommendation from Georgia State University that a student be admitted to another institution for a visiting term. Students request this letter of certification via the web. See [URL] for instructions.~~

~~A student may not take courses for degree credit at another institution during the semester he~~

~~or she expects to graduate from Georgia State.~~

It is vital that students considering transient status review the rules regarding transfer credit (Section 1320.10), the rules regarding academic residency (Section 1440), the rules regarding credit for grades of D (Section 1450), and individual college policies on the number of course attempts. The rules in these sections specify limits on the credits taken as a transient that will transfer to Georgia State as well as limits on the credits that will count towards the Georgia State degree requirements. Students are encouraged to check ~~with their advisor and the transfer equivalency charts~~ **for more information about transfer credit.** ~~prior to enrolling in the course.~~ See <http://advisement.gsu.edu/transfer-students/equivalency-charts/>.

A degree seeking undergraduate student who wishes to take academic courses elsewhere as a transient student and apply those credits toward the Georgia State degree is encouraged to certify the eligibility of the transient course for transfer credit with the University Advisement Center or the College Office of Academic Assistance. This should be done the semester before the student takes the transient class. Failure to certify that a transient course is eligible for transfer in a student's degree program may result in a student taking a transient class that is not eligible for transfer credit or that does not count toward the fulfillment of degree requirements at Georgia State University.

It is the student's responsibility to comply with application procedures and any other requirements that the other institution may have regarding establishing status as a transient student there.

After completing the course, it is the student's responsibility to promptly request that an official transcript be sent from the other institution to: Georgia State University, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, P.O. Box 4009, Atlanta, GA 30302-4009. **Once the official transcript is received, credit will be considered pending for the student's degree program until finalized by an academic advisor.** Questions about transfer credit for courses taken as a transient should be addressed to the **student's advisor in the University Advisement Center or the college Office of Academic Assistance.**

Rationale

The focus of this policy change is to ensure that transient students take courses that will support their academic progression. Any student who wants to take a course as a transient student can do so without authorization. However, the revised policy encourages students to certify that the classes they take as transient students will count in their degree program. This process will minimize the number of courses students take that are not eligible for transfer credit or that may not count toward the fulfillment of degree requirements at Georgia State University.

MOTION ON CTW REQUIREMENT

Peter Lyons presented the motion to change the Critical Thinking through Writing requirement (CTW). The motion was approved as amended.

Motion

Effective Summer 2015, Section 1430 of the Undergraduate Catalog is revised as follows:

Additions ~~Deletions~~

[1430 Critical Thinking Through Writing \(CTW\) Requirement](#)

~~Effective for students entering fall term 2009 and thereafter, all~~ All students seeking baccalaureate degrees are required to complete ~~two critical thinking through writing (CTW) courses in their majors~~ **a critical thinking through writing (CTW) requirement which includes a CTW course in their major**. Students should consult the section of this Catalog that describes their major for its CTW requirements. CTW classes are unique to Georgia State University and therefore students cannot transfer equivalent credit from other universities.

Departments will develop and approve a plan to demonstrate infusion of CTW throughout the curriculum and submit their plan to the College for approval. The College-approved plan must be submitted to the Undergraduate Assessment Committee for approval by the end of Fall 2015.

Rationale

The existing requirement that students complete two “critical thinking through writing” (CTW) classes to graduate was the core of the last Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) implemented by GSU, launched in the last full SACS reaccreditation cycle. Envisioned as a five-year institutional initiative, the program has achieved measurable improvements in critical thinking-connected learning outcomes, and the wider training and assessment mechanisms implemented through CTW have significantly strengthened a university culture supportive of feedback-intensive and iterated assignment critical thinking goals. As the funding commitment for the initiative winds down, the opportunity is available to envision a more permanently sustainable model (given enrollment growth, the need to facilitate progression-to-degree and graduation rate improvement, and constraints on funding the existing program). An unintended consequence of the two-CTW requirement has been the creation of a structural impediment to student graduation when departments have been unable to provide sufficient seats and/or sections to meet student needs.

The logic of this motion is to simplify the requirement (from two required CTW classes to one), while also requiring units to develop focused discipline-specific plans to assure critical thinking outcomes are explicitly strategized across the wider program of study.

Process: In preparing a CTW plan, departments should consider what they are already doing in their courses that involves critical thinking through writing. The intent is not to produce 50 different models for publication, but to create a process that is largely invisible to students as they progress through courses designed to achieve the objectives of CTW for their respective majors. CTW courses will be assessed through the existing assessment processes.

Credible departmental plans to demonstrate the delivery of critical thinking through writing within a one-required-CTW model might include, but are not limited to:

1. Demonstrating widespread use of CTW-type activities and teaching methods across the program of study.
2. Widespread student participation in research projects or honors theses.
3. Widespread student participation in signature experiences.
4. Consistent and thorough examination of critical thinking and writing skills as part of the overall departmental assessment of learning outcomes.
5. Widespread use of Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) courses.

DISCUSSION ITEM: ON EQUIVALENCE OF ONLINE AND F2F COURSES FOR PREREQUISITE ACCEPTANCE

Dr. Weigle reported that at a recent meeting on Distance Learning, she learned that there are departments that specify in their catalog that online versions of courses cannot be used as prerequisites. As a rule, delivery of instruction does not impact the use of a designated course as a prerequisite. Dr. Weigle will work with Shari Schwartz to compose a motion for the next meeting for a policy to address the issue that will go into the catalog.

UPDATES: CONSOLIDATION

Dr. Weigle stated she would like to be added to the Admissions committee, one of the 42 working groups organized due to the consolidation.

Dr. Calhoun-Brown noted there have been changes at the Board of Regents regarding LSP affecting Math and English that will be brought before Admissions and Standards at the next meeting as an information item.

Recorded by:

Wanda F. Taylor
Office of the Vice Provost