

APPROVED NOV 15 2006

Awarding graduate level credit to undergraduate students**(Reference #1)**

Issue: Currently UH awards course credit to undergraduate students at the professional and/or graduate credit level(s). To award graduate level credit to undergraduate students in PS, the student must be attached to a graduate career (formerly classification). To qualify for graduate funding from the State of Texas, the student must show proof of a prior degree and be fully admitted to a graduate program. Decisions may impact BBA to MBA, BBA to MSACY, PHRD to Ph.D; PB to GR.

Recommended Options:

- 1) Use as delivered. "Internally transfer" the courses completed at the undergraduate credit level to the graduate career.
- 2) Business process discussion: Will UH allow a student with no prior degree to earn graduate credit when no state funding will be awarded for that student's graduate courses?

Discussion of Options 1 and 2:**Advantages -**

- Internal transfer from undergraduate to graduate career makes the best sense.
- Choosing these options will allow UH to tighten its academic requirements and disallow granting graduate-level credit until the student's undergraduate degree is complete and student is fully admitted to a graduate career.
- UH would stop losing funding because of awarding graduate level credit to unqualified students.

Disadvantages -

- If we choose the internal transfer option, UH will have to disallow granting graduate-level credit until the student's undergraduate degree is complete and student is fully admitted to a graduate career.
- If we use internal transfer, official transcripts in legacy and PS will differ slightly.

Other options considered:

- Modifying PS to allow awarding non-career credit to a student, e.g. GR/LAW/PHAR credit to UG student
- Assigning a student to both professional and graduate careers, not for the purpose of granting both degrees but to apply credit outside a student's primary career.

Executive Summary:**1. Awarding graduate level credit to undergraduate students****Premises:**

- To award graduate level credit to undergraduate students in PS, the student must be attached to a graduate career.
- Currently UH awards course credit to undergraduate students at the professional and/or graduate credit level(s).
- A student cannot get graduate funding from the State of Texas until the student is fully admitted to a graduate career. Decisions may impact BBA to MBA, BBA to MSACY, PHRD to Ph.D; PB to GR.

Options:

- 1) Mod PS to allow assigning non-career credit to a student, e.g. GR/LAW/PHAR credit to UG student
- 2) Assign student to both professional and graduate careers
- 3) Use as delivered. Internally "transfer" the courses completed at the undergraduate credit level to the graduate career.
- 4) Business process discussion: Does UH want to allow a student with no prior degree to earn graduate credit when no state funding will be awarded for that student's graduate courses?

Recommend Options 3 and 4:**Positive –**

- Internal transfer from undergraduate to graduate career makes the best sense.
- Will require UH to disallow granting graduate-level credit until the student's undergraduate degree is complete and student is fully admitted to a graduate career.

Negative –

- Will require UH to make business process change to disallow granting graduate-level credit until the student's undergraduate degree is complete and student is fully admitted to a graduate career.
- If we use internal transfer, official transcripts in legacy and PS will differ.

Awarding graduate level credit to undergraduate students (Discussion)**Premises:**

UH has awarded course credit to undergraduate students at the professional and/or graduate credit level(s) (Possible impacts: BBA to MBA; BBA to MSACY; PHRD to PHD; PB to GR)

To award graduate level credit to undergraduate student in PS, the student must be attached to a graduate/professional career. A student cannot get graduate funding from the State of Texas until the student is fully admitted to a graduate career.

Options:

- 5) Mod PS to allow assigning non-career credit to a student, e.g. GR credit to UG student
- 6) Assign undergraduate student to both professional and graduate careers
- 7) Internally "transfer" the courses completed at the undergraduate credit level to the graduate career
- 8) Business process discussion: Does UH want to allow a student with no prior degree to take graduate-level courses when no state funding will be awarded for that student's graduate courses?

Recommend Options 3 and 4: Internal transfer from undergraduate to graduate career makes the best sense. But this choice will require UH to disallow granting graduate/professional -level credit until the student's undergraduate degree is complete and student is fully admitted to a graduate/ professional career. Transcripts in legacy and PS will differ without substantial modification to career based structure in PS.

Discussion:

What decisions will we make to determine what to do if:

- Graduate credit is awarded to a student even though the student has no posted bachelors degree and no approved graduate admission data
- Graduate credit is awarded for a PB student with no approved graduate admission data
- Undergraduate students are admitted into the graduate program in a future dated semester different from the semester in which the graduate level credit is posted

Immediate concerns include:

- Financial Aid (could) award graduate career funding when grad career does not "really" exist?
- Course credit applies to undergraduate degree GPA & degree credit (academic standing/honors) prior to credit level adjustment but does or does not apply AFTER credit level is changed to graduate GPA & degree credit? Would UH allow cherry picking? (Not sure about UH, but for UHV, credit hours can apply to either a grad or an undergrad degree but not both.)
- For conversion of mixed-career records, we are assigning students to a "conversion career".

Work arounds/solutions for BBA to MBA, PhrD to PhD, BBA to MSACY track:

we can internally "transfer" the courses completed at the undergraduate credit level to the graduate career (i.e., student must be admitted to the graduate track and this should not be done until the undergraduate degree is completed(?). Must determine if the credit for GPA purposes and degree purposes applies to both careers or only one.