

TO: Joel Bloom, Chair, Undergraduate Council

RECEIVED OCT 17 2006

FROM: Lawrence R. Williams, member, SACS Affirmation Academic Policy Committee

DATE: October 16, 2006

APPROVED FEB 21 2007

During discussions by members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation's Academic Policy Advisory Committee, we determined that the University of Houston needed to alter our Undergraduate Catalog policy regarding the number of hours required in residence by UH for students earning an undergraduate degree. Current UH 2005-2007 Undergraduate Catalog language for "General Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree" (page 72-73; item 10) states:

10. Students must complete at least 30 semester hours in residence.
 - a. These residence hours are not to include credit by examination, special problems, or individual research courses taken at the University of Houston.
 - b. A minimum of nine semester hours of advanced work in the major field must be completed in residence.

SACS' policy, quoted from Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement, item 3.5.2 reads:

The institution awards degrees only to those students who have earned at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree through instruction offered by that institution. (See the Commission's policy "The Transfer or Transcribing of Academic Credit.")

Whereas many undergraduate degrees at UH comply with the 25 percent policy by requiring 120 semester credit hours for graduation, some UH Colleges degree require more than 120 semester credit hours, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Engineering, Technology, Architecture for example. Therefore members of the SACS Affirmation Academic Policy Committee recommend the following change in UH policy and catalog language for item 10:

Students must complete at least 25 percent of the semester hours required for a degree in residence or if 25 percent includes a fraction of a semester hour, the requirement must be rounded up to the nearest whole number of semester hours.