

TO: Larry Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Committee

APPROVED APR 24 2013


FROM: Christina Gola
Academic Policy and Procedures Committee

SUBJECT: UC 12258 13S: update to report #12284 13S – language regarding transfer of vocational credit

DATE: April 19, 2013

The Academic Policies and Procedures Committee met on April 3 and April 17, 2013. Participating in one or both discussions were committee members Christina Gola, Willie Munson, Richard Scamell, Shishir Shah, Lesley Sisk, and Stephen Soutullo.

Background

At the March 27, 2013 UC meeting, members provided feedback regarding policy language in sections 5&6 of the Transfer Credit Policy. Feedback focused on how we differentiate vocational, technical, and occupational courses, as well as whether changing the language is too lenient or stringent. It was also noted that some of the language might be outdated.

The Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee revisited the language and spoke with several stakeholders to determine the best course of action. We reviewed Texas transfer credit guidelines and enrollment cap policies. We spoke with several departmental deans about the language and policy regarding vocational transfer credit. We learned of several concerns regarding language that may affect academic program accreditation (i.e., AACSB, ABET, ATMAE, etc). We also learned that much of the language is outdated, including terms such as vocational and bookkeeping, and that the policy has not been edited since the 1970s. Finally, we examined similar policy language from UT, A&M, and TTU.

Current Catalog Language

5. The following courses are not accepted by the university in transfer:

- Vocational courses.
- Orientation, remedial course work including remedial English, remedial reading courses, and high school level and remedial mathematics.
- Courses in bookkeeping.
- General Education Development tests on high school or college level
- Courses from unaccredited seminaries or Bible colleges.

6. Courses in technology from accredited schools will be considered for transfer credit on an individual basis, depending on the student's major and the type of course to be transferred.

New Catalog Language

We suggest completely revising both sections into one statement as follows:

Workforce and technical courses taken at regionally accredited institutions of higher education normally not acceptable for transfer may be transferred as credit with departmental approval. However, only the student's academic dean can determine the applicability of such credit towards a degree. Additionally, developmental and remedial courses, and courses classified as below freshman level by the institution at which the student took them, are not transferable and will not count toward a degree.

Discussion

Based on the information we gathered, we believe that the term workforce is more inclusive of a variety of courses that might be considered for credit toward a degree by some colleges. We also felt this allows us to remove some outdated and specific language such as bookkeeping and seminary courses. In order to maintain language that is consistent with academic program accrediting bodies, we feel the language should specifically state that courses are not normally accepted, except in cases with departmental approval.

Recommendation

We recommend approval of the new catalog language outlined above for implementation in Fall 2013.