

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
Resolution On Community College Transfer Credits for Consideration by the University Faculty Council

September 20, 2007

Resolution

The Indiana University Academic Leadership Council formally endorses a limit on the credit hours that can be applied to an Indiana University baccalaureate degree that were earned at any community college to **64 semester credit hours**.

Notes

- 1) Any students who were allowed to transfer more credit hours under an existing agreement prior to the formal adoption of this resolution by the appropriate academic governance bodies will not be subject to this policy.
- 2) Exceptions can be made for associate degrees that require more than 64 credit hours for a graduate to sit a professional licensing exam. Some examples are the Respiratory Therapy AS and the Dental Hygiene AS.
- 3) For the purposes of applying credits beyond the 64 in this resolution, Vincennes University will be considered a community college except in the areas for which it has accredited baccalaureate degrees.
- 4) The 64 credits is an IU-wide maximum. Individual schools or campuses can retain current maximums that are lower than 64 credits.

Rationale

- **Program integrity.** Traditionally, baccalaureate degree programs require a substantial number of 300/400-level courses that are not offered by community colleges. Baccalaureate programs that accept three years of lower division courses undermine the integrity of the baccalaureate degree.
- **Enhanced academic advising and timely progress to degree.** Adoption of this policy will increase the likelihood that community college transfer students – and those who advise them at either IU or a community college – make informed decisions regarding course selection and curriculum planning. It should reduce the number of students who accumulate 90 credit hours from another institution on the assumption that the credits will apply toward any baccalaureate degree.

This policy should help prevent the accumulation of irrelevant or excessive credits at the 100/200 level and make clear the expectation that community college students who intend to earn an IU baccalaureate degree ought to transfer to IU as soon as they have earned either sufficient credits to be eligible for transfer and/or an associate of science or associate of arts degree in a field relevant to their desired baccalaureate degree program.

- **Uniformity and consistency.** Adoption of this policy will establish a formal uniform academic policy regarding limitations on the number of total community college credit hours that will be accepted toward the requirements for an Indiana University degree. While some

IU schools, such as the IU Bloomington College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Optometry, and some entire campuses, such as IU South Bend, already have policies limiting the number of community college transfer credits a more consistent rule for transferring credits will provide students, faculty, and academic advisers with greater simplicity and clarity regarding degree requirements and facilitate transfers within IU.

It also would address inconsistencies between transfer agreements between Indiana University and community colleges outside the State of Indiana. Arrangements made exclusively with out-of-state community colleges to transfer 90 credit hours are not easily reconciled with agreements with Indiana community colleges. Justifying these arrangements on the basis that the out-of-state community colleges are better than Indiana community colleges is not a tenable long-term position.

- **Complementary and supplementary with existing state policy.** Adoption of the 64 semester credit hour policy is responsive to the call for more transparent and consistent statewide policies regarding course transfer and degree articulation between Indiana University and Indiana's two-year institutions. Further, it is responsive to the expansion and differentiation of missions and associate degree programs between Indiana University and Ivy Tech Community College.
- **Consistent with peer institutions.** The practice of defining the number of community college credit hours at the university level rather than by individual schools and colleges is common at official IU peer institutions. Peer institutions with such policies include:

IU-B:

Michigan State University
Pennsylvania State University
University of Florida
University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Maryland-College Park
University of Texas-Austin
University of Washington-Seattle
University of Wisconsin-Madison

IU-East

Auburn University Montgomery
Louisiana State University Shreveport
Missouri Southern State University
University of Wisconsin-Parkside

IU Southeast:

Midwestern State University
University of Southern Indiana

IUPUI:

University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Colorado at Denver
Wayne State University

IU Kokomo:

Lewis-Clark State College

IU South Bend:

Emporia State University
Salem State College

IU Northwest:

Angelo State University
Arizona State University at the West Campus
Lamar University

Note, shared peers in the above list were not repeated.