

Proposed change to the Academic Minor Policy

Summary:

The purpose of this proposed change is to clarify the meaning of **clause five** in the current policy (see below). As currently written, clause five does not clearly address whether courses that constitute electives within the degree program but whose credits are required in order to meet degree requirements may be utilized to meet the requirements of the minor. The current practice is that electives utilized to meet requirements of the degree program cannot be “double-counted” towards the eight credits that “must not be required courses in the major.” The proposed change shifts focuses on the fulfillment of minor.

Current Policy:

Academic Minors

Matriculated students at SUNYIT can obtain an academic minor in an area of study that is different from the area of the major and that has been approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Provost. Approved minors are described in the catalog. Application for an academic minor must be made through the department offering the minor. Specific courses must be identified in consultation with a faculty member in the minor. A statement of successful completion of the minor will appear only on the student’s transcript at the time of graduation.

The following additional criteria must be satisfied for approval of the minor:

1. The minor must consist of a minimum of 17 credit hours.
2. The minor must be in a different discipline from the student’s major. “Different discipline” signifies a discipline other than the discipline comprising the majority of the courses in the student’s academic major.
3. At least eight credit hours must consist of advanced level courses. “Advanced level” signifies courses beyond the entry-level sequence in the discipline; these courses normally carry prerequisites.
4. At least eight credit hours must be taken at SUNYIT.
5. At least eight credit hours must not be required courses in the major.
6. A student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (average of “C”) in the minor.

Proposed Change:

Remove requirement 5.

Discussion:

This proposed change is in response to conflicting interpretations of the existing Academic Minor Policy. The consensus of the committee is that academic *minors* recognize the achievement of students who elect to develop expertise in a field outside of their major discipline. Therefore, the focus should be on fulfilling the minor requirements. This change empowers the academic program to define what constitutes a minor for particular academic discipline.



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate

FROM: Operations Committee

RE: Recommendations for Academic Advisers Related to Financial Aid

DATE: 177th Plenary at SUNY Delhi, October 19-21, 2017

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS state, federal, and private aid sources have varied and student-specific academic progress-related conditions required to meet academic eligibility requirements for financial aid; and

WHEREAS it is critical for students to be fully informed about the impact of registration choices on their financial aid support; and

WHEREAS incomplete and incorrect information related to the impact of a student's registration on current or future financial aid eligibility may negatively impact a student's funding eligibility and persistence/graduation, and create legal implications for academic advisers; and

WHEREAS understanding the complexity of determining satisfactory academic progress (e.g., the number of semester credits attempted and completed, the specific courses for which students are currently registered, total credits hours earned, and cumulative GPA are all considered when determining academic eligibility for financial aid), the changing nature of aid eligibility regulations, and a comprehensive understanding of the intersection of these matters on individual student's aid eligibility requires a focus and commitment of time that is unreasonable to expect of academic advisers whose primary purpose is to provide academic, major, and career guidance within the scope of their expertise rather than financial counsel;

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that campuses should make it clear to academic advisers that students' registration impacts their financial aid eligibility. As such, academic advisers should refer students to the financial aid office on their campus for information on how registration and registration changes may impact aid eligibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SUNY develop and deploy on all campuses an automated financial aid information system that will provide to students clear and early information on their aid eligibility statuses and aid eligibility appeal procedures, and provide warnings during registration processes that notify students that their aid may be impacted by particular semester registrations or changes to registration during the course of a semester.



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate

FROM: Student Life Committee

RE: Attendance Policy Accommodation for United States Military Drills and Training

DATE: 177th Plenary at SUNY Delhi, October 19-21, 2017

RATIONALE

WHEREAS SUNY Colleges and Universities have adopted various attendance policies; and

WHEREAS professors, lecturers, and instructors typically have attendance policies detailed on their syllabi in which the definitions of excused and unexcused absences are explained, including information about when excessive excused absences may not be able to be fully accommodated due to the parameters of the course; and

WHEREAS attendance policies apply to all students, including students within the United States Military community¹, who are held to the same standards as other students relative to classroom attendance policies; and

WHEREAS, currently, attendance at United States Military drills and training sessions while concurrently enrolled at a SUNY institution, and being absent from courses are not explicitly accommodated excuses, and as a result, many students within the United States Military community must either miss mandatory training and drills, or accept unexcused absences which have a likely deleterious effect on the student's achievement in the class; and

WHEREAS SUNY has recently placed an increased emphasis on student completion; and

WHEREAS The State of New York has passed the New York State Patriot Plan², which entitles United States Military students to request a leave of absence for periods of United States Military service that preserves their educational status and financial resources.

RESOLUTION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate requests that SUNY Chancellor and Board of Trustees adopt a policy that calls for United States Military obligations,

including drills and trainings, to be treated as excused absences according to campus policies;
and

BE IT RESOLVED that the UFS encourages SUNY to adopt a policy that any United States Military obligation that cannot be fully accommodated due to the nature of a course or the length of obligation be eligible for a non-penalizing United States Military withdrawal from at least that course, preserving their educational status and financial resources; and

BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be disseminated to campus governance leaders for discussion and potential endorsement on individual campuses.

BACKGROUND

The UFS Student Life Committee overwhelmingly supports the spirit of the SA United States Military Affairs and Rules Committees resolution 1617-SC02 brought forward to the SUNY Student Assembly and to the attention of the University Faculty Senate. The Student Life Committee agreed that support of the United States Military community is required. We believe that an adjustment in attendance policies to accommodate students within the United States Military community is immediately needed. However, we realize that some lengths of absence are not accommodatable and therefore also suggest that a non-penalizing United States Military withdrawal policy be enacted and that both of these be extended to include drills and training.

¹ Many SUNY students are United States Military, to include Active, Reserve, Guard, and Individual Ready Reserve, many of which must attend various drills and training.

² New York Patriot Plan III. Education Benefits. Educational Leave of Absence to Perform United States Military Duty. 26 March 2016. [accessed 5 October 2017]
<https://dmna.ny.gov/benefits/patriot/>

³ SUNY Student Assembly. Resolution 1617-SC02 “Attendance Policy Accommodation for Veteran Drills and Training”
<http://sunysa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/1617-SC02-Attendance-Policy-Accomodation-for-Veteran-Drills-and-Training.pdf>