

Proposed change to Upper Division Credit Requirement and Residency Requirement

1. Upper Division Credit Requirement

Current Policy:

Students must accrue a minimum of 30 upper division credits of which at least 12 credits in residence must be in the major. Individual programs may require a higher minimum of upper division credit.

Proposed Change:

Students must accrue a minimum of ~~30~~ 40 upper division credits of which at least ~~12~~ 15 credits in residence must be in the major. Individual programs may require a higher minimum of upper division credit.

2. Residency Requirement

Current Policy:

SUNY Poly maintains a minimum residency requirement of 30 semester hours, of which a minimum of 12 semester hours must be in the major. Credits in residence include credits taken at SUNY Poly. Consult your program description for any additional specific residency requirements.

Proposed Change:

SUNY Poly maintains a minimum residency requirement of ~~30~~ 40 semester hours, of which a minimum of ~~12~~ 15 semester hours must be in the major. Credits in residence include credits taken at SUNY Poly. Consult your program description for any additional specific residency requirements.

Discussion:

This proposed change is initiated by a memorandum by Provost Office. The Academic Affair committee sought feedback from individual programs and extensively discussed this issue. SUNY Poly has a policy in place which limits the number of transferable credits to 76 which could all be lower-level credits. The minimum number of credits for graduation among current programs is 124. Hence, the committee felt that the maximum credits for both upper division and residency are 48. Currently, there is a push within SUNY system for seamless transfer among sister institutions. After taking this into account, the committee unanimously agreed to set the minimum requirements for both upper division credits and residency to 40 credit hours.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Affairs Committee

FROM: Dr. William W. Durgin, Provost

DATE: June 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Degree Program Credit Requirements

At least one SUNY Poly degree program has a requirement of 30 credit hours. It is possible for a native student to graduate by taking

Level	Credits	%
Lower Division	98	79
300	26	19
400	2	2

It would seem that this results in a rather modest course of study. While this is an extreme example, it reflects a fundamental problem.

The situation is exacerbated in the case of transfer students wherein our transfer credit limit is superseded by SUNY BOT Policies¹. In this particular example, it is possible for a transfer student to transfer 94 credits of lower division coursework (which supersedes our limit of 76 credits).

It would seem that awarding a B.S. degree for which a preponderance of credits are taken at the lower division level and only a few credits are taken at the senior level is not in the spirit of the great institution of our aspirations.

One way to “tighten up” is to revise our residency requirement to say 45 credits and to specify the minimum upper division credits to say, 60 credits, with say, half at the senior level. I don’t wish to be prescriptive, but would hope the committee can develop a method of increasing expectations. The limit of 76 transfer credits was, presumably, a means of assuring a minimum upper division portion of courses and so, may serve as a guideline.

I ask that the Committee investigate and make what recommendations and/or curricular revisions it deems appropriate.

¹ Trustee Resolution 2009-138 – Students transferring within the State University of New York will be treated by their receiving institution in the same way as native students of that institution for all academic purposes.