

To: Faculty Senate   
From: Mary Wack, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education  
Date: January 16, 2017  
Subject: Multiple Policy Updates

As part of preparing for our comprehensive accreditation visit in Fall 2017, the Provost's Office is reviewing academic policies to make sure they align with current requirements of regional accreditation, the state, and/or the federal government, as well as with internal WSU policies. A series of academic policy updates will be forwarded in the coming weeks. Our goal is to have the academic regulations updated for the next catalog, and to have a comprehensive revision of the *Educational Policies and Procedures Manual* (last edition 1998) in place by the end of spring semester.

Attached please find the first set of requested revisions:

**Academic Regulations:**

1. Academic Regulation 27. Credit Definition. To align with new NWCCU accreditation policy requiring an ongoing process for checking that courses adhere to credit hour guidelines.
2. Academic Regulation 6. Transfer Credit. To respond to recent developments in international mobility, state initiatives regarding extra-institutional credit sources, and state legislation regarding reverse transfer.
3. Academic Regulation 16. Military Credit. To prevent over-awarding of military credit that can hurt students' educational benefits and progress toward degree.

**Catalog—UCORE section**

1. Transfer credit policy for UCORE – to solve ongoing problems between quarter and semester system credit levels.

To: Faculty Senate *MTW*  
From: Mary Wack, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Lisa Guerrero, Chair of UCORE Committee  
Date: January 16, 2017  
Subject: Clarification of Transfer Credit for UCORE Requirements

As the UCORE requirements have fully phased in, the impact of quarter-to-semester course transfer has revealed an issue needing to be addressed. While most Washington community and technical college general education courses are 5 quarter credits, and transfer in as 3.3 semester credits, a substantial minority consist of fewer credits. When these transfer in as 2 credits, and then do not satisfy UCORE requirements, students are in the awkward position of taking an additional 3 credits to complete the remaining one credit, or petitioning to fulfill the requirement with 2 credits (or anything below 2.67 credits). Approximately 1100 courses per year come in having satisfied a CTC distribution requirement, but not meeting the 2.67 threshold for completing the WSU requirement. This is a large enough number that the UCORE Committee wishes to propose a clarification to the UCORE requirements.

The proposal recommended by the UCORE Committee is to allow courses that transfer in as 2.01-2.66 semester credits to fulfill an area requirement, but the total UCORE credit must still reach a minimum of 34 credits. In other words, if a student transfers in one or more courses below the 2.67 minimum, the total number of credits (34) will need to be met before the overall UCORE requirement is completed. The additional credits can come from any distribution area.

**Proposed addition to the Catalog in the UCORE section:**

A course from another institution that articulates as a direct equivalent to a UCORE category will satisfy a UCORE category requirement if it is at least two (2) credits for a three (3) credit requirement, and three (3) credits for a four (4) credit requirement. The total UCORE credits must be no fewer than 34, and no category may be more than one (1) credit short of the total category requirement (e.g., no less than five [5] credits for a COMM and WRTG, no less than six [6] for BSCI + PSCI or SCI). Courses taken at WSU do not fall under this policy (two one-credit courses will not fulfill a three-credit requirement).