

Draft Baccalaureate Core Excess Credit Policy

v. 10-15-14

Materials linked from the October 23, 2014 Baccalaureate Core Committee.

Background and Rationale

Oregon State University (OSU) has a required set of credits students must take in specific content areas to fulfill their general education requirement (called the Baccalaureate Core, aka Bacc Core). Units have been conducting large scale shifts to increase the number of credit hours of their courses (e.g. shifting from 3 to 4 credits). This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of courses that exceed the minimum credit requirements required by the Bacc Core (WIC is excluded), thereby decreasing the course choices that offer minimum credit levels. The result of this shift may adversely impact students by:

- forcing them to pay more for Bacc Core courses;
- increasing the number of credit hours needed to graduate;
- interfering with scheduling; and
- delaying graduation for students in programs with heavy credit requirements in the major.

Definitions

Excess credit courses – Courses that exceed the minimum required credits in a given category. The minimum number of credits vary by category (ranging from 3 to 4 depending on the category). The following table shows the minimum credit requirement by category:

<http://oregonstate.edu/main/baccalaureate-core-program-summary-chart>

Full category – A Baccalaureate Core Category (other than WIC) that where more than 50% of the courses are excess credit courses.

Draft Policy

No more than 50% of the courses in a category can be excess credit courses. Actions to accommodate a new or changed excess credit course cannot result in an increase in the percentage of “over credit” courses in a full category. This policy excludes Writing Intensive Courses (WIC).

In categories that are “full:”

- The courses already approved for that category, at their current credit level, will be grandfathered in as of DATE*.
- As excess credit courses are dropped from the category no new excess credit slots will become available until the proportion of excess credit courses in that category drops to below 50%.
- Any proposals for new excess credit courses or proposals to increase the number of credits for an already approved minimum credit course (making it an excess credit course) will be denied unless the unit agrees to decrease the credit hours for a comparable course in the same category [as reviewed and approved by the Baccalaureate Core Committee (BCC)].

NOTE: All courses must demonstrate that it meets OSU’s credit requirements definitions (i.e. that a 3-credit course is 3 credits of work) (POLICY IS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED – Fall 2014 and Winter 2015). This is accomplished via the responses provided in the Curriculum Proposal System Questions and via the syllabus. The BCC reserves the right to deny approval of courses that do not meet these criteria.