

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, 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
- for well-defined degree programs, such as Engineering, delaying graduation.

DRAFT Policy OPTION 1

No more than 50% of courses in a category can exceed the minimum number of credits required for that category as defined by the following table: <http://oregonstate.edu/main/baccalaureate-core-program-summary-chart>.

- Should a category already exceed 50% of “over credit” courses (hereafter referred to as a “full category”), the courses already approved for that category, at the current credit level, will be grandfathered in as of DATE*.
 - o In “full categories,” 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 subsequent requests to increase the number of credits for a course already approved in a full category 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)].
- Sub-option 1A: No new “over credit” courses will be approved in full categories, they must be offered at the credit level as shown in the “Credits from Approved Courses” column of <http://oregonstate.edu/main/baccalaureate-core-program-summary-chart> OR the unit may choose to decrease the credit hours for a comparable course in the same category (as described above).

OR

- Sub-option 1B: As “excess credit” courses are removed from a category, a pool of “excess credit” course slots becomes available to all departments. These “slots” will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis as defined by the CPS submission date.

- Actions to accommodate a new or changed “over credit” course cannot result in an increase in the percentage of “over credit” courses in a full category.

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.

DRAFT Policy Option 2

As of DATE* no more “excess credit” new course or course change proposals will be accepted. Existing over credit courses will be grandfathered as long as they are taught regularly.

Option 3 Discussed

Restructure the Bacc Core to keep the total number of credits needed to the current minimum: 48 credits plus WIC. Reduce the number and/or combine categories; drop the 3rd science course.