

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE OF
THE TRANSFER ADMISSION POLICY IN THE *GENERAL INFORMATION CATALOG***

On behalf of the Admissions and Registration Committee, Martin R. Cox (Committee Chair and Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication Studies) submitted the following proposal with rationale to change the Transfer Admission policy in the *General Information Catalog*. The committee members unanimously approved the changes in spring 2016. The Secretary has classified this as legislation of *general* interest to more than one college or school. It will be considered by the Faculty Council at its meeting on December 5, 2016.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

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Transfer Minimum Semester Hour Requirement

Background

Historically, the minimum semester hours required to transfer to The University of Texas at Austin was thirty transferable semester hours, and the additional requirements were primarily based on a corresponding grade point average (GPA).

Beginning the fall 1996 semester, the transfer admissions process changed to a holistic review, which took a number of additional factors into consideration. During the first three years of that process, the thirty-hour minimum requirement (although unpublished and not exclusively enforced) remained in effect.

Effective the 1999-2000 catalog year, the minimum semester hour requirement changed from thirty to twenty-four (to accommodate a growing number of appeals for transfer consideration from applicants with less than the thirty-hour minimum).

The minimum twenty-four-hour requirement remained in effect until fall 2005 when the Admissions and Registration Committee of the Faculty Council recommended (and were granted) approval to change from twenty-four to thirty.

Committee Rationale:

The Admissions and Registration Committee (chaired by Urton Anderson) recommended that the credit hour requirement for external transfer applicants should be consistent with that required of CAP participants. The committee recommendation was presented to the Faculty Council and the motion unanimously passed. Thus, the new thirty-hour requirement was first reflected in the 2006-07 *General Information Catalog* (and currently remains in effect).

The change to a minimum of twenty-four transferable semester hours would:

- increase the number of qualified transfer applicants (both in numbers and projected quality).
- better align the transfer requirements with comparable institutions, in number of hours and articulated coursework/prerequisites.
- increase the number of “in residence” hours required to complete a UT degree.
- better align the “external transfer” and the “internal transfer” requirements (minimum twenty-four hours in residence for a number of colleges).
- afford prospective transfers an opportunity to apply after two fulltime semesters (given twelve semester hours are considered fulltime status at most institutions).
- provide an increased opportunity to create and/or structure alternative transfer admissions pathways (other than existing programs, like CAP and PACE).

Proposed Policy Language:**UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION****Transfer Admission**

Prospective transfer applicants should take advantage of the detailed information and resources available on the Transfer Admissions website (<http://admissions.utexas.edu/apply/transfer-admission>).

Eligibility to Apply

~~[To be eligible for transfer admission consideration, an applicant must:]~~ In most circumstances to be eligible for transfer admission consideration, an applicant must:

1. Have graduated from high school or earned a GED,
2. Have enrolled in an institution of higher education following high school graduation or receipt of the GED, and
3. ~~[Have completed or have in progress the final coursework toward at least 30 semester hours of transferable credit]~~ Have earned twenty-four semester hours of transferable coursework at another college or university.

~~[Transfer applicants to most programs may apply for admission while working to complete the last of their required 30 semester hours of transferable coursework. During the application review process, however, preference is given to applicants who complete the required hours by the deadline. In cases where the applicant has not completed 30 hours by the deadline, all application items, including official transcripts of already completed coursework, must arrive in the Office of Admissions by the deadline. Such applicants must then submit official transcripts showing completed coursework for the current semester as soon as the semester is completed and no later than June 1 for summer/fall applicants and January 6 for spring applicants. The Office of Admissions evaluates such applications for available spaces only after receiving documentation showing completion of the required 30 semester hours of coursework.]~~ While thirty semester hours of transfer credit is recommended for transfer applicants, students with at least twenty-four hours of credit will be considered based on the strength of their application and available spaces in the incoming class. In exceptional circumstances, students with fewer than twenty-four semester hours of credit may be considered for transfer admission under special review by appeal to the Director of Admissions.