

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

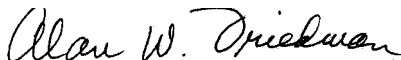
**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES SECTION IN THE
COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG*,
2018-2020**

Dean Sharon Wood in the Cockrell School of Engineering has filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Council the following proposal to change the Academic Policies and Procedures section in the Cockrell School of Engineering chapter in the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2018-2020*. On December 2015, the Department Chairs and faculty in the Cockrell School of Engineering approved the proposal, and the Degrees and Courses Committee in the Cockrell School of Engineering approved it March 29, 2016. On April 6, 2016, the Dean approved the proposal. The Secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of exclusive interest to a single college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the proposal on September 20, 2017, and forwarded it to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with the Provost on behalf of the President.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by October 12, 2017.



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

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES SECTION IN THE
COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG*,
2018-2020**

TYPE OF CHANGE: Academic Change
 Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION: Exclusive General Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

- Is this a new degree program? Yes No
- Is this program being deleted? Yes No
- Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes No
- Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes No

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE: Instituting credit/fail grade option for Cockrell School of Engineering semester exchange students. The Cockrell School of Engineering (CSE) seeks to encourage undergraduate students to include an international experience in their undergraduate program of study. Among the several options for gaining such an experience, semester exchange programs rise to the top because they are the best vehicle for cultural immersion and they represent the lowest cost to CSE. To undertake semester exchange programs, students need to see the academic risks as manageable. The two key concerns in this regard are:

1. Will the courses taken abroad count toward a degree?
2. Will the grades assigned abroad be reasonable relative to the standards applied at UT Austin?

We only send academically strong students on exchange programs so the grade issue can be important to their career goals (e.g., grad school admission).

Grading standards and culture differ not just between UT Austin and our partner universities but also among our various partner universities, such that the grading issues vary depending on the university the student is attending. The grading, assessment style, and frequency may be dramatically different than UT Austin's, except for those very few partners whose academic systems are aligned with the American system. At most partner universities the final exam accounts for most of the grade, not allowing students to know where they stand until a comprehensive final exam is administered and graded at the end of the semester. Many universities will allow students to re-take the final, but this option is usually impractical for our students because they have already returned home.

In the recent years, we have been developing exchanges with higher-ranking university partners, which are often the least "Americanized" in terms of their educational systems (e.g., TU Delft). As a result, we have had recent problems with very good students getting very low grades. Growing student concern about grades is now threatening student willingness to participate in semester exchange programs.

The McCombs School of Business encountered this problem in the past and addressed it by allowing students to choose their grading standard after the study-abroad grades are received at UT Austin as follows:

1. Accept the equivalent UT Austin letter grade earned for the course at the international university
2. Choose to convert the letter grade to a Credit/No Credit grade at UT Austin

McCombs allows no more than four study-abroad courses in the degree program to be taken Credit/No Credit, and all University-level core courses must be taken for a grade per the requirements of the School of Undergraduate Studies. It is also our understanding that many of our peer engineering schools make accommodations for students in assigning grades for semester exchange courses.

To provide context, the current CSE policy is that no course in an undergraduate degree program can be taken Credit/Fail. The purpose of this proposal is to lay out a policy similar to that of the McCombs School of Business for CSE students.

Peer School Comparison on Grades for Exchange Students

Peer School	Engineering Study Abroad Grades Computed in GPA
University of Wisconsin-Madison	No
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	No
Purdue	No, for all ME students
	No w/ adviser permission outside of ME
Georgia Tech	No
Berkeley	Yes
University of Michigan	No

3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES: (Please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Flags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) | |

4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes No
If yes, then how would you do so?
- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes No
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions:

If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: No

If yes, Undergraduate Studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? If yes, explain: No

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date:	December 2015	Approved by whom:	Dept. Chairs submitted comments to the associate dean of school
College approval date:	March 29, 2016	Approved by whom:	Degrees & Courses Committee
Dean approval date:	April 6, 2016	Approved by whom:	Sharon L. Wood

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Pass/Fail Option

All courses required for all engineering degrees must be taken for a letter grade unless the course is offered only on the pass/fail basis or if it meets the requirements for the Cockrell School of Engineering's semester exchange grading policy for study abroad. A student may elect to take courses that do not count toward the degree or are being taken to remove a deficiency on the pass/fail basis rather than for a letter grade. To elect the pass/fail system of grading:

1. The student must have received at least 30 hours of college credit before registering for any course on the pass/fail basis, unless the course is offered only on the pass/fail basis.
2. The student may take no more than two courses a semester on the pass/fail basis.
3. The student may take up to five one-semester courses, including correspondence courses, on the pass/fail basis.
4. The student must submit an application no later than the deadline given in the academic calendar at https://utdirect.utexas.edu/engine/pass_fail/index.WBX.

For information on how to receive credit by examination, see *General Information*.

Grade Policy for Semester Exchange (Study Abroad) Students

With permission of the undergraduate adviser in their department, engineering students may elect to place up to four exchange courses on their records with a CR, rather than with a UT letter grade. The following restrictions apply:

1. Only courses completed on a semester exchange at a Cockrell School of Engineering partner institution qualify.
2. Students must choose the Pass/Fail option by the usual UT mid-semester deadline given in the academic calendar and must have prior permission of their undergraduate adviser before doing so. If the exchange university does not follow the same academic calendar at UT Austin the student must make this request before 60% of the course completion (usually about 9 weeks from the start of class).
3. The corresponding course in the UT degree plan will determine the minimum grade requirement to obtain the CR grade (i.e., if the UT course requires a C- or better, the student must have earned the equivalent of C- or better on the exchange course to receive a CR; in the absence of a specified minimum grade requirement, the standard is an equivalent of D- or better).
4. Courses in the engineering degree program taken on exchange programs with the CR grade option may be counted toward any requirements for the degree except courses being applied toward the 42-hour, UT core curriculum requirements.
5. No matter how many exchange courses a student takes, no more than two exchange courses per semester and no more than four total exchange courses with the CR grade can be applied toward the degree.
6. Once a course is placed on the UT record the grade designation may not be changed.

This policy is effective beginning with students on exchange programs in fall 2016 and later, and is applicable to all catalogs.