

Board Meeting
January 19, 2017

REVISE POLICY ON ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT FOR
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

Action: Revise Policy on Acceptance of Transfer Credit for Undergraduate Admission

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Board of Trustees policy on Acceptance of Transfer Credit for Purposes of Undergraduate Admission was last acted upon in November 1983. The policy currently in force is generally still applicable; however, several aspects require updating, such as names of offices and accrediting bodies, mechanics of admissions, and language recognizing the admission of international students as an important component of our transfer population.

Accordingly, a system-wide committee reviewed the policy and developed language that a) corrects out-of-date references, b) adds language to cover treatment of credit earned by international students as well as credit earned through test-based credit and other non-course based credit, and c) recognizes current best practices in evaluating transfer credit. The Vice President for Academic Affairs then referred the proposed changes to the University Senates Conference, which in turn transmitted the changes to each university senate for consideration and approval.

The proposed changes conform to accepted practices endorsed by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) published in the *Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit*.

To summarize, the proposed changes include the following:

1. Updates are made to names and language describing the relevant accrediting bodies.
2. Foreign institutions are now explicitly included as acceptable sources for transfer credits.
3. Transfer work other than coursework, such as credit for military service and credit earned through testing and experimental learning, is now specified as permissible.
4. Allows that transfer work is acceptable if directly equivalent to a University course and/or applicable to a degree requirement.
5. Clarifies that transfer courses are evaluated for admission purposes first, and then reviewed for applicability to degree programs.
6. Explicitly acknowledges that transfer credit ultimately is approved according to current practice in the academic colleges and departments.

It is important to underscore that the fundamental statement of practice of the current Board policy and recommended in the *Joint Statement* continues to be upheld in the proposed update to the Board policy. That statement is: “transfer work must be similar in nature, content, and level” to that offered by the University of Illinois. In other words, the spirit of the policy remains unchanged (i.e., admit qualified transfer students from institutions that provide robust preparation), but the language is updated for currency and clarity.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs recommends approval of the Revised University Policy on Acceptance of Transfer Credit for Undergraduate Admission set forth in the attached document. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University concurs with this recommendation.

Current
Board of Trustee Policy on
Acceptance of Transfer Credit for Undergraduate Admission Purposes

1. Admission of transfer students to the University of Illinois is based only on the transfer course work which is similar in nature, content, and level to that offered by the University of Illinois. Such courses are normally referred to as transfer work or college parallel work. Other course work completed, such as technical courses similar in content and level to courses taught at the University, will be used in evaluation for admission, only upon the request of the Dean of the College to which the student seeks admission.
2. Transfer credit, as defined above, will be accepted at full value for admission purposes on transfer to the University of Illinois if earned in:
 - a. Colleges and universities which offer degree programs comparable to programs offered by the University of Illinois and are (i.) members of, or hold Candidate for Accreditation status from, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools or other regional accrediting association, or (ii.) that are accredited by another accrediting agency which is a member of the Council on Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA).
 - b. Illinois public community colleges which are neither members of, nor holders of Candidate for Accreditation status from, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, but which are approved and recognized by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), for a period of time not to exceed five years from the date on which the college registers its first class after achieving ICCB recognition.
3. Certain colleges and universities do not meet the specifications in 2 above, but have been assigned a status by the University Committee on Admissions

which permits credit to be accepted on a provisional basis for admissions purposes on transfer to the University of Illinois. Transfer credit, as defined in 1 above, from such colleges and universities is accepted on a deferred basis to be validated by satisfactory completion of additional work in residence. Validation through satisfactory work in residence may be accomplished by earning in the University of Illinois, or another fully accredited¹ college or university, at least a 3.0 (A = 5.0) grade point average (higher if prescribed by the curriculum the student wishes to enter) in the first 12 to 30 semester (18 to 45 quarter) hours completed following transfer.

4. Credit, as specified in 1 above, transferred from an approved¹ community or junior college is limited only by the provision that the student must earn at least sixty semester or ninety quarter hours required for the degree at the University or at any other approved¹ four-year college or university after attaining junior standing, except that the student must meet the residence requirements that apply to all students for a degree from the University. When a school or college within the University requires three years of preprofessional college credit for admission, at least the last thirty semester or forty-five quarter hours must be taken in an approved¹ four-year collegiate institution.
5. In all cases, the precise amount of transfer credit which is applicable toward a particular degree will be determined by the University college and department concerned.

¹ *Colleges and universities that meet one or more of the specifications listed in 2 above.*

Proposed
Policy on Acceptance of Transfer Credit for Undergraduate Admission

1. Transfer work^a is evaluated for admission purposes and considered for credit. The University evaluates transfer work completed at institutions accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), including institutions under candidacy status. Foreign institutions must be recognized by the ministry of education in the home country or an equivalent government authority.
2. To be eligible for admission and credit, transfer work must be similar in nature, level, and content to courses in the undergraduate curriculum and/or applicable to an undergraduate academic program. Other transfer work that is deemed nontransferable (such as continuing education courses, graduate-level courses, and courses that are remedial, technical, vocational, or doctrinal in nature as determined by the campus) are not used in admission decisions regardless of the institution's accreditation.
3. Credit for transfer courses is either applied as direct equivalents with University courses or applied to a degree in a manner determined by the department and college. Determining how transfer credit is applied varies by campus depending on the process established to implement University policy.
4. The precise amount of transfer credit awarded and that is applicable toward a particular degree is determined by or in consultation with the University college and department concerned.

^a "Transfer work" and "transfer courses" are used interchangeably in this policy. Regardless of the term, this policy applies to transfer not in the form of courses, such as credit for military service and credit earned through testing and experiential learning. Transfer work not in the form of courses is evaluated for transfer per the terms of this policy.

Proposed Effective Date: Effective for Fall 2017.