

1. PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE CREDIT TRANSFER POLICY TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Rationale

Currently we do not accept transfer credits into doctoral programs. We only allow a completed master's degree from another accredited institution fulfill one year of the residency requirement preceding the Qualifying Examination. The argument against accepting transfer credits into the doctorate is that the degree should represent full training and "ownership" of the student experience by the home institution.

Refusing to accept transfer credit means that at least two cohorts of students are disadvantaged. The first cohort comes with advanced professors who are recruited to UK. They sometimes bring their doctoral students with them. These students are in limbo, with part of their coursework completed, but here they must either begin again, or take Special Examinations from UK faculty which award the credit for a similar UK course. The students (or their professors' grants) must pay the UK tuition for these "Credit by Special Examination" arrangements. The second cohort is composed of students who take some required coursework elsewhere while they are living away from UK, either before entering the doctoral program or while they are in it. Even if the Director of Graduate Studies approves this course, we cannot accept it as credit, although the DGS may waive the requirement.

As doctoral students become more diverse in geography, age entering the program, and type of experience they bring, we find ever more students who encounter this problem. The Graduate School finds that the policy not to accept transfer credit into the doctorate is a hindrance for students and programs. It is an added financial burden on students and limits the flexibility of programs in planning student progress to degree. We find that the sanctity of the degree is not violated by acceptance of formal credit from another regionally accredited university, if the coursework is approved by the Graduate Faculty in the program and recommended for transfer by the Director of Graduate Studies.

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The current credit transfer policy permits a total of 9 hours of graduate coursework (or 25% of regular course degree requirements, whichever is greater) to be transferred into a **master's** degree program on the recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies. These hours include all post-baccalaureate work, graduate work taken at another regionally-accredited university or as a student in another graduate program at the University of Kentucky.

We propose that the transfer policy should **ALSO** apply at the doctoral level, thereby allowing up to 9 hours of credit to count toward the 36 credit hour pre-qualifying residency requirement. This transfer policy would **NOT** apply in cases where a prior master's degree is being used to satisfy 18 hours of the pre-qualifying residency requirement.

Existing transfer restrictions would apply in both situations:

- Course credits applied toward a previously awarded graduate degree cannot be transferred.
- Transfer of independent work, research, thesis or dissertation credit is not permitted.
- Short courses lasting fewer weeks than the number of credits may not be transferred.
- A student must have been in graduate status at the time the courses were taken in order for the courses to be transferable.
- A student must be in good academic standing at the time of transfer.
- Only courses assigned a B grade or better can be transferred.

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Lindsay, Jim D.
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2007 9:28 AM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: FW: HCCC Request: Credit Transfer Policy

Shelia...

FYI: Below is a clarification that the HCCC requested for the Proposal to Expand the Credit Transfer Policy to Doctoral Programs.

Thanks,

Jim

Jim Lindsay
Health Care Colleges Council Coordinator
Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Office
University of Kentucky, 205 Frazee Hall
Lexington, KY 40506-0031 Ph. (895) 323.6638
www.uky.edu/Provost/AcademicCouncil/council.php

From: Blackwell, Jeannine
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 4:44 PM
To: Lindsay, Jim D.
Subject: RE: HCCC Request: Credit Transfer Policy

H Jim,

If students have not yet been awarded a degree in a field (example Toxicology), and then change to a different degree program (example Pharmacology), they can count up to 9 hours of those credits toward the new degree program if the Pharmacology approves. If they have completed the program and been awarded the degree in Toxicology, they cannot "double dip" and use those credits again for a second degree in Pharmacology.

This transfer policy will apply only to doctoral programs in the Graduate School, and so the DNP, which is a professional degree, is out of our range. We do not make decisions on credits and requirements for the DNP. The Graduate School cannot accept credits from professional schools, such as the MD or DMD toward a doctoral degree.

A completed degree means that coursework cannot be transferred, so when a student graduates and starts a new degree, they are starting at zero hours again.

When students in the midst of one program transfer to a new program either in the same college or a different one, they will still have to complete all new program requirements, but they can use up to nine credit hours toward the new degree if the program faculty agree to accept it. The program may even accept part of the credits as fulfilling their own degree requirements, if appropriate.

The program faculty has to approve of the transfer of credit, because the course work may not be applicable (say I change from Chemistry to Philosophy). They still have to fulfill all program requirements, so the transferability may not do them any good, in highly structured or highly regulated programs.

Jeannine