

Senate Council
October 26, 2009

Below is the current rule on Prohibition of Duplicate Credit. Subsequent pages include documentation from the original Duplicate Credit proposal.

5.3.1.2 Prohibition of Duplicate Credit

A student may earn credit hours and associated quality points for a course only once unless the course is designated as repeatable. A student who nonetheless has enrolled more than once for the same nonrepeatable course will be awarded credit hours and associated quality points only for the first time the course is completed during the student's academic career, regardless of the source (e.g. transfer, A.P., etc.) unless the student properly exercises the Repeat Option under SR 5.3.1.1.

- * The dean of a student's college may elect to count the grades of subsequent attempts for selective admission purposes only, and not for calculating the grade point average for graduation or any other purpose.

October 13, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Davy Jones, Chair, Senate Rules and Election Committee

FROM: Joe Sottile, Chair Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee

RE: Duplicate Credit Rule Interpretation

Dr. Jones,

Thank you for discussing the Prohibition of Duplicate Credit Rule with me. As we discussed, the interpretation of this rule is having unintended consequences. I do realize that you are not (nor is your committee) charged with dealing with the fallout of a rule. And, I would like to thank you for considering this situation, one in which the interpretation of a rule may not be what is stated in the rule.

In this case, I believe that the implementation of the Duplicate Credit Rule is not correct. For example, the rule is currently being interpreted in the following manner: if a student takes a course that is not repeatable three times (or any number of times greater than one) and fails it every time, the "E" grade will be counted for the first attempt only. In my opinion, every attempt should be counted in the student's GPA because duplicate credit is not involved in this situation (in fact, no credit is earned) and, therefore, the Duplicate Credit Rule should not be applied.

There are other situations that can be provided as examples of the deleterious impact of applying the Duplicate Credit Rule when a failing grade is received in a course. However, the example provided illustrates the problem with the present interpretation of this rule. Therefore, I believe that the Duplicate Credit Rule should not be applied to situations in which there is no duplicate credit involved.

I have attached additional correspondence regarding the Duplicate Credit Rule for you to review. In addition, I would be glad to meet to discuss it with you. Thank you.

September 1, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Joe Sottile, Chair, Admissions and Academic Standards Committee

FROM: Jacquie Hager, Associate Registrar
Mike Shanks, Assistant Registrar

RE: Duplicate Credit Rule interpretation

Recently, the three of us met to discuss the duplicate credit rule and its interpretation. We all agreed that the rule is being interpreted in a confusing manner for the campus community. The purpose of this memo is to clear up the interpretation of the rule so all campus constituents are on the same page. The rule in its current state is below.

5.3.1.2 Prohibition of Duplicate Credit

A student may earn credit hours and associated quality points for a course only once unless the course is designated as repeatable. A student who nonetheless has enrolled more than once for the same nonrepeatable course will be awarded credit hours and associated quality points only for the first time the course is completed during the student's academic career, regardless of the source (e.g. transfer, A.P., etc.) unless the student properly exercises the Repeat Option under SR 5.3.1.1.

**The dean of a student's college may elect to count the grades of subsequent attempts for selective admission purposes only, and not for calculating the grade point average for graduation or any other purpose*

The rule when it was initially written on April 11, 2006 stated that students who earned credit for a course twice would only earn the hours associated with the first successful completion and continue to receive quality points on any subsequent successful completion unless a repeat option was filed. The intent of the rule was to remove earned hours for students who take non-repeatable courses over and earn a passing grade more than once. The policy was not intended to consider courses not completed successfully (an E or F grade) as duplicate credit implies that courses are duplicated only if earned hours are attached to both courses in some way, such as with A,B,C,D, P, or CR grades.

To demonstrate how the rule is currently being interpreted, we will provide some specific examples:

1. Student takes a class in fall 04 and earns a D, retakes the class in fall 2008 and earns an A. Earned hours and graded hours are being removed for the A unless a repeat option is submitted by the student.
2. Student takes a class in fall 08 and earns an E then retakes the class in spring 2009 and earns an E. Graded hours are being removed for the spring 2009 class; thus an E grade is not being counted in the gpa and the student does not have to file a repeat option.
3. Student takes a class at UK in fall 07 and earns an E grade. Student takes the same course at BCTC and transfers back to UK in spring 09 having earned a B grade in the class. The earned credit is being removed as it is being deemed duplicate credit. In this case, the student could never transfer in and earn credit for a course failed at UK the first time as repeat options can't be used on transfer courses.
4. Student earns three E's in the same course taken in fall 07, fall 08, and spring 09. Student would only have to count gpa from the fall 07 attempt as the duplicate credit policy would allow the graded hours to be removed from the gpa for the attempts in fall 08 and spring 09.

It is our hope that the policy and its interpretation can be clarified so that these issues do not occur with our students. It is our recommendation that the University take a closer look at the original policy (see attached) as to bring the rule back in line with its original intent to only remove earned hours for a second successful completion of a course.

Please let us know if you have further questions or if we can help further in this process.

April 11, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nancy Clauter, Chair
Admissions and Academic Standards

FROM: Mike Shanks
Academic Advising Network

RE: Request for addition to Senate Rules concerning Duplicate Credit

The Academic Advising Network submits the following recommendation for an addition to the University Senate rules. We request the rule to follow SR 5.3.1.1 which states the Repeat Option policy as these issues are closely related.

Duplicate Credit

A student may earn credit for a course only once unless the course is designated as repeatable. A student who has duplicate credit for the same course from different sources will earn credit for the course once. If duplicate credit exists among special exams, AP or IB credit, or transfer credit then the exam or credit yielding the most earned hours will be awarded.

Course work that is deemed duplicate credit will be counted in the computation of the grade point average if applicable as many times as passing grades for that course are recorded unless a repeat option is requested by the student. Earned credit hours will only be awarded the first time a course is successfully completed. The Dean of a student's college may elect to count the quality points of subsequent attempts for admission and/or graduation purposes.

Rationale:

- 1.) This will allow the University of Kentucky to have a consistent policy on the matter. Currently, each college determines how duplicate credit will apply toward a student's degree. However, there is no statement to be found in the University Bulletin stating any college's policy on duplicate credit.
- 2.) This will allow more efficient use of University resources. In October of 2006, a new computer system will be introduced. This opens the door for the policy to be implemented and computerized so that the manual processes can be eliminated. Currently, each college notifies the Registrar's office of any duplicate credit on a student's record. In turn the staff in the Registrars office manually removes the duplicate credit hours from the student's record.
- 3.) Moving to a campus-wide policy on duplicate credit will align us with most of our benchmarks. All of our benchmarks have a statement for their students on how duplicate credit is treated. Approximately 60% have a computerized system that will automatically remove duplicate credit thus saving the university time, money and resources.

We would like to have this approved as soon as possible for implementation when the new computer system (SAP) goes live in October 2006.