

# Policies

## Credit-by-Exam and Other Non-traditional Learning

Following is a list of the types of examinations and other non-traditional learning experiences that Frostburg State University will accept for credit towards a degree. Students will receive elective or required credit depending on the content of the test or other experience evaluated. As of May 2001, the programs listed here are the only forms of non-traditional credit accepted. Participants should consult the Admissions Office (301/687-4201) or the Assistant Provost (301/687-4212) for the most up-to-date information.

Source	Score or Transcript Required
Advanced Placement Program (CEEB)	3 or higher
CLEP	Minimum score varies by subject area with no score lower than 500 (general) or 50 (subject) accepted
International Baccalaureate	4 or higher on each standard/subsidiary or higher level exam
College Courses at High School	If credit is recorded on a college transcript
Departmental Exams from Other Colleges	If credit is recorded on a college transcript
Military Credit	If equivalent to courses in FSU's curriculum
Portfolio Credit from Other Colleges	If credit is recorded on a college transcript
Special FSU Departmental Exams	See following list of tests currently available

### Credit-By-Exam Policies

In addition to earning credit at FSU or transferring course credit from other accredited institutions, you may acquire up to 30 credits through examination. The examinations accepted include: Advanced Placement Examinations; College Level Examination Program (CLEP); International Baccalaureate exams; and special departmental examinations.

#### Recording of Credits

The grade PT will appear on your transcript to indicate that the credits were earned by examination. Credit may be earned within your major as well as in general college and elective courses. PT's earned will not be used in computing your cumulative grade point average.

#### General Limitations

- To earn credit by examination, you must be currently enrolled at Frostburg State University as a full-time or part-time student.
- An examination cannot be used to remove a failure in a course completed at Frostburg or elsewhere.
- An examination cannot be used to remove a low grade earned in a course completed at Frostburg or elsewhere.
- An examination may not be repeated or retaken in order to earn a higher score.

- Students currently registered for an equivalent course are ineligible to receive credit-by-examination. If you believe you may qualify for credit-by-exam, you should take the examination prior to enrollment in the course. You cannot receive credit-by-exam and credit through course completion for the same course.
- If you achieve a satisfactory score, academic credit and a grade of PT will be recorded on your permanent record when you pay the credit charge.

### Advanced Placement Examinations

Advanced Placement Examinations are available through the College Entrance Examination Board of the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey 08540; [www.collegeboard.org/ap](http://www.collegeboard.org/ap).

You may receive credit by examination for grades of 3, 4 or 5 on the College Board Advanced Placement Examinations.

#### Procedures

- Make arrangements to take the Advanced Placement Examination at the appropriate time. Pay the examination fee to the appropriate agency.
- Your official score must be sent directly by the testing agency to the Assistant Provost. After you enroll at the University, you must request that your score be evaluated, and, if the score is high enough for credit to be given, reported to the Registrar's Office.

- The credit will be recorded on your transcript without charge.

### College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

CLEP is administered by the College Entrance Examination Board also. See the address in the Advanced Placement section, or consult <http://www.collegeboard.org/clep>.

The examinations consist of college-level general and subject examinations designed to measure knowledge acquired through means other than college course work.

The examinations stress understanding, the ability to perceive relationships, and a grasp of basic principles and concepts. General examinations are designed to measure general learning, often referred to as general education. Subject examinations are designed to measure achievement in the area of a specific course or subject.

#### Procedures

Procedures are identical with those noted above for the Advanced Placement Examinations.

### International Baccalaureate Programme

The International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) is a rigorous two-year curriculum offered in select secondary schools throughout the world. In order to receive college credit for IB, you must sit for the examination in each subject of study and ask IB to send an official transcript to FSU's Assistant Provost. Contact IB North America and the Caribbean, 200 Madison Ave., Suite 2007, New York, NY 10016; <http://www.ibo.org/>

### Special Departmental Examinations

After paying a \$25 testing fee for each departmental exam, you may take a special examination in place of any course for which credit by examination has been established. If you pass the examination, the course will be waived, and you may receive credit for it by paying an additional processing fee. The department determines passing standards, as well as eligibility standards, if applicable. Students currently or formerly enrolled in a course are ineligible to take a special departmental exam to exempt from the same course.

#### Procedures

- Request permission from the Department Chair to be evaluated for credit in a particular course.
- Pay a \$25 administrative testing fee at the University & Student Billing Office.
- The Department Chair assigns an appropriate faculty member to evaluate you. In some cases, the department offers the exam on a regularly scheduled basis. See the list that follows.
- The faculty member evaluates your work according to quantitative and qualitative standards previously established by the department — for example, by an oral or written examination or by performance.
- If the faculty member's evaluation reveals that

your achievement is equal or superior to that of a student passing the course in a traditional way, the department will report the grade of PT to the Registrar's Office on the form for granting course approval to students.

6. Pay a processing fee of \$10 per credit hour to get the credit recorded on your transcript.
7. You may take such exams only once.

### Credit-by-exam Equivalencies Under Revision

Frostburg State University's course and credit equivalencies for external credit-by-exam are being re-evaluated during May 2001. You may request a copy of the up-to-date evaluations or review this information on the FSU website ([www.frostburg.edu](http://www.frostburg.edu)) after July 1, 2001. For a paper copy, please contact the Office of Admissions (301/687-4201; fax 301/687-7074).

### Special Departmental Exams

Below are listed special departmental examinations currently offered on campus. Students who believe they qualify for credit by exam must take the examination prior to signing up for the course. See the current Schedule Booklet for specific test dates or contact the department offering the exam for specific information.

Course		Credit Earned
ACCT 201	Intro. to Accounting I	3
ACCT 202	Intro. to Accounting II	3
ACCT 301	Intermediate Acct. I	3
ACCT 302	Intermediate Acct. II	3
ART 104	Foundational Studies I	3
ART 105	Foundational Studies II	3
ART 212	Drawing	3
BIOL 109	Human Biology & the Environment	4
BIOL 149	General Biology I	4
BIOL 150	General Biology II	4
COSC 100	Intro. to Computer Science	3
COSC 200	Computer Science I	3
COSC 350	Computer Org./Assem. Language	3
ENGL 101	Freshman Comp.	3
ENGL 308	Soc. Science Adv. Comp	3
ENGL 310	General Adv. Comp.	3
GEOG 103	Physical Geography	4
GEOG 104	Human Geography	3
GEOG 275	Intro. to Spatial Analysis	3
GEOG 307	Adv. Physical Geology	4
GEOG 308	Adv. Historical Geology	4
HEED 100	Personal Wellness	2
MATH 102	College Algebra	3
MATH 103	Trigonometry	per course
MATH 106	Algebra w/Calculus for Business	
MATH 120	Pre-Calculus Math.	
MATH 209	Elements of Probability & Statistics	
MATH 220	Calculus for Applications I	
MATH 226	Calculus I	
MUSC 101	Music Fundamentals	2
MUSC 102	Theory I	3
MUSA 414	Class Piano IV	1
PHYS 203	Physical Science	4
PSYC 150	General Psychology	3
PSYC 386	Drugs and Human Behavior	3
PSYC 387	Addictions Treatment Delivery	3
PSYC 388	Treatment Issues and Theory in Addictions	3
PSYC 389	Ethics for the Addiction Counselor	1
PSYC 404	Psychology of the Exceptional Child	3
PSYC 417	Psychology of Abnormal Behavior	3
PSYC 430	Health Psychology	3
SOWK 375	Human Behavior & the Social Environment	3

You may also receive credit by accelerated placement in foreign languages by passing a higher level course with a grade of C or better. You must pay a fee of \$10 per credit. Accelerated placement credit is available in: FREN 101, 102, 211, 212, 250; SPAN 101, 102, 211, 212, 250 (3 credits per course).

## University System of Maryland Policy for Student Residency Classification

### for Admission, Tuition and Charge-Differential Purposes

(Approved by the Board of Regents August 28, 1990;  
Amended July 10, 1998; Amended November 27, 2000)

#### I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland (USM) to recognize the categories of In-State and Out-of-State students for the purpose of admission, tuition, and charge differentials at those institutions where such differentiation has been established.

An In-State student is a student whom the University determines to be a permanent resident of the State of Maryland. For the purposes of this Policy, "permanent resident" is defined as a person who satisfies all the following conditions and has done so for at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately prior to and including the last date available to register for courses in the semester/term for which the person seeks In-State Status:

1. Is not residing in the State of Maryland primarily to attend an educational institution; and,
  2. Owns and continuously occupies or rents and continuously occupies living quarters in Maryland. There must exist a genuine deed or lease in the individual's name reflecting payments/rents and terms typical of those in the community at the time executed. Persons not having such a lease may submit an affidavit reflecting payments/rents and terms as well as the name and address of the person to whom payments are made which may be considered as meeting this condition. As an alternative to ownership or rental of living quarters in Maryland, a student may share living quarters in Maryland which are owned or rented and occupied by a parent, legal guardian, or spouse; and,
  3. Maintains within Maryland substantially all personal property; and,
  4. Pays Maryland income tax on all earned taxable income including all taxable income earned outside the State; and,
  5. Registers all owned motor vehicles in Maryland in accordance with Maryland law; and,
  6. Possesses a valid Maryland driver's license, if licensed, in accordance with Maryland law; and,
  7. Is registered in Maryland, if registered to vote; and,
  8. Receives no public assistance from a state other than the State of Maryland or from a city, county or municipal agency other than one in Maryland; and,
  9. Has a legal ability under Federal and Maryland law to live permanently without interruption in Maryland.
- In addition, persons with the following status shall be accorded the benefits of In-State Status for the period in which they hold such status:
1. A full-time or part-time (at least 50 percent time) regular employee of the University System of Maryland.
  2. The spouse or financially dependent child of a full-time or part-time (at least 50 percent time) regular employee of the USM.
  3. A full-time active member of the Armed Forces of the United States whose home of residency is Maryland or one who resides or is stationed in Maryland, or the spouse or a financially dependent child of such a person.
  4. For UMUC, a full-time active member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty, or the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty.

5. A graduate assistant appointed through the University System of Maryland for the semester/term of the appointment. Except through prior arrangement, this benefit is available only for enrollment at the institution awarding the assistantship.

Students not entitled to In-State Status under the preceding paragraphs shall be assigned Out-of-State Status for admission, tuition, and charge-differential purposes.

Assignment of In-State or Out-of-State classification will be made by the University upon an assessment of the totality of facts known or presented to it. The person seeking In-State Status shall have the burden of proving that he or she satisfies all requirements.

The following circumstances raise a presumption that the student is residing in the State of Maryland primarily for the purpose of attending an educational institution:

1. The student was attending high school or residing outside Maryland at the time of application for admission to a USM institution.
2. The student is both (a) not financially independent and (b) is financially dependent upon a person not a resident of Maryland.  
The burden shall be on the student to rebut the presumption.

## II. PROCEDURES

An initial determination of In-State Status will be made by the University at the time a student's application for admission is under consideration. The determination made at that time, and any determination made thereafter, shall prevail for each semester/term until the determination is successfully challenged in a timely manner.

A change in status must be requested by submitting a USM "Petition for Change in Classification for Admission, Tuition and Charge Differential". A student applying for a change to In-State Status must furnish all required documentation with the Petition by the last published date to register for the forthcoming semester/term for which the change in classification is sought.

The student shall notify the institution in writing within fifteen (15) days of any change in circumstances which may alter In-State Status.

In the event incomplete, false, or misleading information is presented, the institution may, at its discretion, revoke in-state status and take disciplinary action provided for by the institution's policy. Such action may include suspension or expulsion. If In-State Status is gained due to false or misleading information, the University reserves the right to retroactively assess all Out-of-State charges for each semester/term affected.

Each institution of the University System of Maryland shall develop and publish additional procedures to implement this policy. Procedures shall provide that on request the President or designee has the authority to waive any residency criterion set forth in Section I if it is determined that the student is indeed a permanent resident and the application of the criteria creates an unjust result. These procedures shall be filed with the Office of the Chancellor.

## III. DEFINITIONS

**Financially Dependent:** For the purposes of this policy, a financially dependent student is one who is claimed as a dependent for tax purposes or who receives more than one-half of his or her support from another person during the twelve (12) month period immediately prior to the last published date for registration for the semester or session. If a student receives more than one-half of his or her support in the aggregate from more than one person, the student shall be considered financially dependent on the person providing the greater amount of support.

**Financially Independent:** A financially independent student is one who (1) declares himself or herself to be financially independent as defined herein; (2) does not appear as a dependent on the Federal or State income tax return of any other person; (3) receives less than one-half of his or her support from any other person or persons; and (4) demonstrates that he or she provides through self-generated support one-half or more of his or her total expenses.

**Parent:** A parent may be a natural parent, or, if established by a court order recognized under the law of the State of Maryland, an adoptive parent.

**Guardian:** A guardian is a person so appointed by a court order recognized under the law of the State of Maryland.

**Spouse:** A spouse is a partner in a legally contracted marriage.

**Child:** A child is a natural child or a child legally adopted pursuant to a court order recognized under the law of Maryland.

**Self-Generated:** Self-generated describes income which is derived solely from compensation for an individual's own efforts as evidenced, for example, by federal or state W-2 forms or IRS Form 1099 where interest income is based upon finances created from one's own efforts. For the purposes of this policy, grants, stipends, awards, benefits, loans and gifts (including federal and State aid, grants, and loans) may not be used as self-generated income.

**Regular Employee:** A regular employee is a person employed by USM who is assigned to a State budget line or who is otherwise eligible to enroll in a State retirement system. Examples of categories NOT considered regular employees are graduate students, contingent employees, and independent contractors.

## IMPLEMENTATION

This policy as amended by the Board of Regents on November 27, 2000 shall be applied to all student residency classification decisions made on or after this date.

## FSU Procedure for Residency Status Appeals

Any student who wishes to appeal the decision of residency status previously determined by the Office of the Registrar or the Admissions Office, may do so in writing to the Appeals Board for Residency Status. This board shall consist of representatives designated by the Provost, the Vice President for Student and Educational Services, and the Vice President for Administration and Finance. The appeal will be reviewed by the board members in the order listed. Only by unanimous agreement of the board members will the decision of the Office of the Registrar or Admissions be overruled. Upon request, the President or designee has the authority to waive any residency requirements if it is determined that the student is indeed a permanent resident and application of the criteria creates an unjust result.

A student desiring to appeal should obtain and submit the University System of Maryland "Petition for Change in Residency Classification for Admission, Tuition and Charge Differential" through the office that made the original residency status decision, the Office of the Registrar or the Admissions Office.

# General Education and Transfer

## Subtitle 06

### TITLE 13B - MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION Chapter 01 Public Institutions of Higher Education

**Authority:** Education Article, 11-201 - 11-206  
**Annotated Code of Maryland**

#### .01 Scope and Applicability.

This chapter applies only to public institutions of higher education.

#### .02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms defined.

- (1) "A.A. degree" means the Associate of Arts degree.
- (2) "A.A.S. degree" means the Associate of Applied Sciences degree.
- (3) "Arts" means courses that examine aesthetics and the development of the aesthetic form and explore the relationship between theory and practice. Courses in this area may include fine arts, performing and studio arts, appreciation of the arts, and history of the arts.
- (4) "A.S. degree" means the Associate of Sciences degree.
- (5) "Biological and physical sciences" means courses that examine living systems and the physical universe. They introduce students to the variety of methods used to collect, interpret, and apply scientific data, and to an

understanding of the relationship between scientific theory and application.

(6) "English composition courses" means courses that provide students with communication knowledge and skills appropriate to various writing situations, including intellectual inquiry and academic research.

(7) "General education" means the foundation of the higher education curriculum providing a coherent intellectual experience for all students.

(8) "General education program" means a program that is designed to:

- (a) introduce undergraduates to the fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that are essential to the study of academic disciplines;
- (b) encourage the pursuit of life-long learning, and;
- (c) foster the development of educated members of the community and the world.

(9) "Humanities" means courses that examine the values and cultural heritage that establish the framework for inquiry into the meaning of life. Courses in the humanities may include the language, history, literature, and philosophy of Western and other cultures.

(10) "Mathematics" means courses that provide students with numerical, analytical, statistical and problem-solving skills.

(11) "Native student" means a student whose initial college enrollment was at a given institution of higher education and who has not transferred to another institution of higher education since that initial enrollment.

(12) "Parallel program" means the program of study or courses at one institution of higher education which has comparable objectives as those at another higher education institution, for example, a transfer program in psychology in a community college is definable as a parallel program to a baccalaureate psychology program at a 4-year institution of higher education.

(13) "Receiving institution" means the institution of higher education at which a transfer student currently desires to enroll.

(14) "Recommended transfer program" means a planned program of courses, both general education and courses in the major, taken at a community college, which is applicable to a baccalaureate program at a receiving institution, and ordinarily the first 2 years of the baccalaureate degree.

(15) "Sending institution" means the institution of higher education of most recent previous enrollment by a transfer student at which transferable academic credit was earned.

(16) "Social and behavioral sciences" means courses that examine the psychology of individuals and the ways in which individuals, groups, or segments of society behave, function, and influence one another. The courses include, but are not limited to, subjects which focus on:

- (a) history and cultural diversity;
- (b) concepts of groups, work and political systems;
- (c) applications of qualitative and quantitative data to social issues; and
- (d) interdependence of individuals, society, and the physical environment.

(17) "Transfer student" means a student entering an institution for the first time having successfully completed a minimum of 12 semester hours at another institution which is applicable for credit at the institution the student is entering.

## **.02-1 Admission of Transfer Students to Public Institutions**

### **A. Admission to Institutions.**

- (1) A student attending a public institution who has completed an A.A., A.A.S., or A.S. degree or who has completed 56 or more semester hours of credit, shall not be denied direct transfer to another public institution if the student attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent in parallel courses, except as provided in subsection (4) below.
- (2) A student attending a public institution who has not completed an A.A., A.A.S., or A.S. degree or who has completed fewer than 56 semester hours

of credit, shall be eligible to transfer to a public institution regardless of the number of credit hours earned if the student:

- (a) Satisfied the admission criteria of that receiving public institution as a high school senior; and
  - (b) Attained at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent in parallel courses.
- (3) A student attending a public institution who did not satisfy the admission criteria of a receiving public institution as a high school senior, but who has earned sufficient credits at a public institution to be classified by the receiving public institution as a sophomore, shall meet the stated admission criteria developed and published by the receiving public institution for transfer.
  - (4) If the number of students seeking admission exceeds the number that can be accommodated at a receiving public institution, admission decisions shall be:
    - (a) Based on criteria developed and published by the receiving institution; and
    - (b) Made to provide fair and equal treatment for native and transfer students.

### **B. Admission to Programs.**

- (1) A receiving public institution may require higher performance standards for admission to some programs if the standards and criteria for admission to the program:
  - (a) Are developed and published by the receiving institution; and
  - (b) Maintain fair and equal treatment for native and transfer students.
- (2) If the number of students seeking admission exceeds the number that can be accommodated in a particular professional or specialized program, admission decisions shall be:
  - (a) Based on criteria developed and published by the receiving institution; and
  - (b) Made to provide fair and equal treatment for native and transfer students.
- (3) Courses taken at a public institution as part of a recommended transfer program leading toward a baccalaureate degree shall be applicable to related programs at a public institution granting the baccalaureate degree.

### **C. Receiving Institution Program Responsibility**

- (1) The faculty of a receiving public institution shall be responsible for development and determination of the program requirements in major fields of study for a baccalaureate degree, including courses in the major field of study taken in the lower division.
- (2) A receiving institution may set program requirements in major fields of study which may simultaneously fulfill general education requirements.
- (3) A receiving public institution, in developing its lower division course work, shall exchange information with other public institutions to facilitate the transfer of credits into its program.

## **.03 General Education Requirements for Public Institutions.**

A. While public institutions have the autonomy to design their general education program to meet their unique needs and mission, that program shall conform to the definitions and common standards in this chapter. A public institution shall satisfy the general education requirement by:

- (1) Requiring each program leading to the A.A. or A.S. degree to include not less than 30 and no more than 36 semester hours, and each baccalaureate degree program to include not less than 40 and not more than 46 semester hours of required core courses, with the core requiring, at a minimum, course work in each of the following five areas:
  - (a) Arts and humanities,
  - (b) Social and behavioral sciences,
  - (c) Biological and physical sciences,
  - (d) Mathematics, and
  - (e) English composition; or
- (2) Conforming with COMAR 13B. 02. 02. 16D (2)(b)-(c).

- B. Each core course used to satisfy the distribution of §A (1) of this regulation shall carry at least 3 semester hours.
- C. General education programs of public institutions shall require at least:
- (1) One course in each of two disciplines in arts and humanities;
  - (2) One course in each of two disciplines in social and behavioral sciences;
  - (3) Two science courses, at least one of which shall be a laboratory course;
  - (4) One course in mathematics at or above the level of college algebra; and
  - (5) One course in English composition.
- D. Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues.
- (1) In addition to the five required areas in §A of this regulation, a public institution may include up to 8 semester hours in a sixth category that addresses emerging issues that institutions have identified as essential to a full program of general education for their students. These courses may:
    - (a) Be integrated into other general education courses or may be presented as separate courses; and
    - (b) Include courses that:
      - (i) Provide an interdisciplinary examination of issues across the five areas; or
      - (ii) Address other categories of knowledge, skills, and values that lie outside of the five areas.
  - (2) Public institutions may not include the courses in this section in a general education program unless they provide academic content and rigor equivalent to the areas in §A(1) of this regulation.
- E. General education programs leading to the A.A.S. degree shall include at least 20 semester hours from the same course list designated by the sending institution for the A.A. and A.S. degrees. The A.A.S. degree shall include at least one 3 semester-hour course from each of the five areas listed in §(A)(1).
- F. A course in a discipline listed in more than one of the areas of general education may be applied only to one area of general education.
- G. A public institution may allow a speech communication or foreign language course to be part of the arts and humanities category.
- H. Composition and literature courses may be placed in the arts and humanities area if literature is included as part of the content of the course.
- I. Public institutions may not include physical education skills courses as part of the general education requirements.
- J. General education courses shall reflect current scholarship in the discipline and provide reference to theoretical frameworks and methods of inquiry appropriate to academic disciplines.
- K. Courses that are theoretical may include applications, but all applications courses shall include theoretical components if they are to be included as meeting general education requirements.
- L. Public institutions may incorporate knowledge and skills involving the use of quantitative data, effective writing, information retrieval, and information literacy when possible in the general education program.
- M. Notwithstanding §A(1) of this regulation, a public four-year institution may require 48 semester hours of required core courses if courses upon which the institution's curriculum is based carry 4 semester hours.
- N. Public institutions shall develop systems to ensure that courses approved for inclusion on the list of general education courses are designed and assessed to comply with the requirements of this chapter.
- have that specific course or has not designated that course as general education.
- D. The receiving institution shall give lower-division general education credits to a transferring student who has taken any part of the lower-division general education credits described in Regulation .03 of this chapter at a public institution for any general education courses successfully completed at the sending institution.
- E. Except as provided in Regulation .03M of this chapter, a receiving institution may not require a transfer student who has completed the requisite number of general education credits at any public college or university to take, as a condition of graduation, more than 10-16 additional semester hours of general education and specific courses required of all students at the receiving institution, with the total number not to exceed 46 semester hours. This provision does not relieve students of the obligation to complete specific academic program requirements or course prerequisites required by a receiving institution.
- F. A sending institution shall designate on or with the student transcript those courses that have met its general education requirements, as well as indicate whether the student has completed the general education program.
- G. A.A.S. Degrees.
- (1) While there may be variance in the numbers of hours of general education required for A.A., A.S., and A.A.S. degrees at a given institution, the courses identified as meeting general education requirements for all degrees shall come from the same general education course list and exclude technical or career courses.
  - (2) An A.A.S. student who transfers into a receiving institution with fewer than the total number of general education credits designated by the receiving institution shall complete the difference in credits according to the distribution as designated by the receiving institution. Except as provided in .03M of this chapter, the total general education credits for baccalaureate degree-granting public receiving institutions may not exceed 46 semester hours.
- H. Student responsibilities. A student is held:
- (1) Accountable for the loss of credits that:
    - (a) Result from changes in the student's selection of the major program of study,
    - (b) Were earned for remedial course work, or
    - (c) Exceed the total course credits accepted in transfer as allowed by this chapter; and
  - (2) Responsible for meeting all requirements of the academic program of the receiving institution.

#### **.05 Transfer of Non-General Education Program Credit**

- A. Transfer to Another Public Institution
- (1) Credit earned at any public institution in the State is transferable to any other public institution if the:
    - (a) Credit is from a college or university parallel course or program;
    - (b) Grades in the block of courses transferred average 2.0 or higher; and
    - (c) Acceptance of the credit is consistent with the policies of the receiving institution governing native students following the same program.
  - (2) If a native student's "D" grade in a specific course is acceptable in a program, then a "D" earned by a transfer student in the same course at a sending institution is also acceptable in the program. Conversely, if a native student is required to earn a grade of "C" or better in a required course, the transfer student shall also be required to earn a grade of "C" or better to meet the same requirement
- B. Credit earned in or transferred from a community college is limited to:
- (1) 1/2 the baccalaureate degree program requirement, but may not be more than 70 semester hours; and
  - (2) The first two years of the undergraduate educational experience.
- C. Nontraditional Credit.
- A. A student transferring to one public institution from another public institution shall receive general education credit for work completed at the student's sending institution as provided by this chapter.
- B. A completed general education program shall transfer without further review or approval by the receiving institution and without the need for a course-by-course match.
- C. Courses that are defined as general education by one institution shall transfer as general education even if the receiving institution does not

(1) The assignment of credit for AP, CLEP, or other nationally recognized standardized examination scores presented by transfer students is determined according to the same standards that apply to native students in the receiving institution, and the assignment shall be consistent with the State minimum requirements.

(2) Transfer of credit from the following areas shall be consistent with COMAR 13B.02.02. and shall be evaluated by the receiving institution on a course-by-course basis:

- (a) Technical courses from career programs;
- (b) Course credit awarded through articulation agreements with other segments or agencies;
- (c) Credit awarded for clinical practice or cooperative education experiences; and
- (d) Credit awarded for life and work experiences.

(3) The basis for the awarding of the credit shall be indicated on the student's transcript by the receiving institution.

(4) The receiving institution shall inform a transfer student of the procedures for validation of course work for which there is no clear equivalency. Examples of validation procedures include ACE recommendations, portfolio assessment, credit through challenge, examinations and satisfactory completion of the next course in sequence in the academic area.

(5) The receiving baccalaureate degree-granting institution shall use validation procedures when a transferring student successfully completes a course at the lower division level that the receiving institution offers at the upper division level. The validated credits earned for the course shall be substituted for the upper division course.

#### D. Program Articulation.

(1) Recommended transfer programs shall be developed through consultation between the sending and receiving institutions. A recommended transfer program represents an agreement between the two institutions that allows students aspiring to the baccalaureate degree to plan their programs. These programs constitute freshman/sophomore level course work to be taken at the community college in fulfillment of the receiving institution's lower division course work requirement.

(2) Recommended transfer programs in effect at the time that this regulation takes effect, which conform to this chapter, may be retained.

#### **.06 Academic Success and General Well-Being of Transfer Students.**

##### A. Sending Institutions.

(1) Community colleges shall encourage their students to complete the associate degree or to complete 56 hours in a recommended transfer program which includes both general education courses and courses applicable toward the program at the receiving institution.

(2) Community college students are encouraged to choose as early as possible the institution and program into which they expect to transfer.

(3) The sending institution shall:

- (a) Provide to community college students information about the specific transferability of courses at 4-year colleges;
- (b) Transmit information about transfer students who are capable of honors work or independent study to the receiving institution; and
- (c) Promptly supply the receiving institution with all the required documents if the student has met all financial and other obligations of the sending institution for transfer.

##### B. Receiving Institutions.

(1) Admission requirements and curriculum prerequisites shall be stated explicitly in institutional publications.

(2) A receiving institution shall admit transfer students from newly established public colleges that are functioning with the approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission on the same basis as applicants from regionally accredited colleges.

(3) A receiving institution shall evaluate the transcript of a degree seeking transfer student as expeditiously as possible, and notify the student of the results not later than mid-semester of the student's first semester of enrollment at the receiving institution, if all official transcripts have been received at least 15 working days before mid-semester. The receiving institution shall inform a student of the courses which are acceptable for

transfer credit and the courses which are applicable to the student's intended program of study.

(4) A receiving institution shall give a transfer student the option of satisfying institutional graduation requirements that were in effect at the receiving institution at the time the student enrolled as a freshman at the sending institution. In the case of major requirements, a transfer student may satisfy the major requirements in effect at the time when the student was identifiable as pursuing the recommended transfer program at the sending institution. These conditions are applicable to a student who has been continuously enrolled at the sending institution.

#### **.07 Programmatic Currency.**

A. A receiving institution shall provide to the community college current and accurate information on recommended transfer programs and the transferability status of courses. Community college students shall have access to this information.

B. Recommended transfer programs shall be developed with each community college whenever new baccalaureate programs are approved by the degree-granting institution.

C. When considering curricular changes, institutions shall notify each other of the proposed changes that might affect transfer students. An appropriate mechanism shall be created to ensure that both 2-year and 4-year public colleges provide input or comments to the institution proposing the change. Sufficient lead time shall be provided to effect the change with minimum disruption. Transfer students are not required to repeat equivalent course work successfully completed at a community college.

#### **.08 Transfer Mediation Committee.**

A. There is to be a Transfer Mediation Committee, appointed by the Secretary, which is representative of the public 4-year colleges and universities and the community colleges.

B. Sending and receiving institutions that disagree on the transferability of general education courses as defined by this chapter shall submit their disagreements to the Transfer Mediation Committee. The Transfer Mediation Committee shall address general questions regarding existing or past courses only, not individual student cases, and shall also address questions raised by institutions about the acceptability of new general education courses. As appropriate, the Committee shall consult with faculty on curricular issues.

C. The findings of the Transfer Mediation Committee are considered binding on both parties.

#### **.09 Appeal Process.**

A. Notice of Denial of Transfer Credit by the Receiving Institution.

(1) Except as provided in §A(2) of this regulation, a receiving institution shall inform a transfer student in writing of the denial of transfer credit not later than mid-semester of the transfer student's first semester, if all official transcripts have been received at least 15 working days before mid-semester.

(2) If transcripts are submitted after 15 working days before mid-semester of the student's first semester, the receiving institution shall inform the student of credit denied within 20 working days of receipt of the official transcript.

(3) A receiving institution shall include in the notice of denial of transfer credit:

- (a) A statement of the student's right to appeal; and
- (b) A notification that the appeal process is available in the institution's catalog.

(4) The statement of the student's right to appeal the denial shall include notice of the time limitations in §B of this regulation.

B. A student believing that the receiving institution has denied the student transfer credits in violation of this chapter may initiate an appeal by contacting the receiving institution's transfer coordinator or other re-

sponsible official of the receiving institution within 20 working days of receiving notice of the denial of credit.

C. Response by Receiving Institution.

- (1) A receiving institution shall:
  - (a) establish expeditious and simplified procedures governing the appeal of a denial of transfer of credit; and
  - (b) respond to the student appeal within 10 working days.
- (2) An institution may either grant or deny an appeal. The institution's reasons for denying the appeal shall be consistent with this chapter and conveyed to the student in written form.
- (3) Unless a student appeals to the sending institution, the written decision in §C(2) of this regulation constitutes the receiving institution's final decision and is not subject to appeal.

D. Appeal to Sending Institution.

- (1) If a student has been denied transfer credit after an appeal to the receiving institution, the student may request the sending institution to intercede on the student's behalf by contacting the transfer coordinator of the sending institution.
- (2) A student shall make an appeal to the sending institution within 10 working days of having received the decision of the receiving institution.

E. Consultation between Sending and Receiving Institutions.

- (1) Representatives of the two institutions shall have 15 working days to resolve the issues involved in an appeal.
- (2) As a result of a consultation in this section, the receiving institution may affirm, modify, or reverse its earlier decision.
- (3) The receiving institution shall inform a student in writing of the result of the consultation.
- (4) The decision arising out of a consultation constitutes the final decision of the receiving institution and is not subject to appeal.

**.10 Periodic Review.**

A. Report by Receiving Institution.

- (1) A receiving institution shall report annually the progress of students who transfer from 2-year and 4-year institutions within the State to each community college and to the Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.
- (2) An annual report shall include ongoing reports on the subsequent academic success of enrolled transfer students, including graduation rates, by major subject areas.
- (3) A receiving institution shall include in the reports comparable information on the progress of native students.

B. Transfer Coordinator. A public institution of higher education shall designate a transfer coordinator, who serves as a resource person to transfer students at either the sending or receiving campus. The transfer coordinator is responsible for overseeing the application of the policies and procedures outlined in this chapter and interpreting transfer policies to the individual student and to the institution.

C. The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall establish a permanent Student Transfer Advisory Committee that meets regularly to review transfer issues and recommend policy changes as needed. The Student Transfer Advisory Committee shall address issues of interpretation and implementation of this chapter.

Effective date: December 4, 1995 (22:24 Md. R. 1901)

Regulations .02, .03, and .05 amended. Effective date: July 1, 1996 (23:13 Md. R. 946)

Revised: February 11, 1998

## University Procedures for Review of Alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading

### Grounds for Grievance

The following procedures implement the University System of Maryland Policy for Review of Alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading (BOR III-1.20) and are designed to provide a means for a student to seek review of final course grades alleged to be arbitrary and capricious. In this policy the term *arbitrary and capricious* grading means 1) the assignment of a course grade to a student on some basis other than performance in the course; 2) the assignment of a course grade to a student by unreasonable application of standards different from the standards that were applied to other students in that course; or 3) the assignment of a course grade by a substantial and unreasonable departure from the instructor's initially articulated standards.

Alleging a final grade to have been determined in an arbitrary and capricious manner is the sole ground upon which a student may seek review under these procedures. Since matters within the instructor's sphere of academic judgment — such as choice of instructional and evaluation methods, criteria, and standards for evaluation — are not grounds for grievance, the burden of proving arbitrary and capricious grading by clear and convincing evidence will rest with the student.

### How to Undertake a Grade Grievance

Students or faculty who desire additional information about the procedures that follow should contact the Assistant to the Provost.

#### Stage I: Mediation

A student seeking review for a final grade in a course should make a reasonable effort to confer with the instructor and attempt to resolve the matter informally. If this effort is unsuccessful, the student approaches the chair of the department offering the course to request mediation of the grade dispute. This action must be taken no later than the 15th class day of the semester subsequent to the term in which the grade was received. The chair will inform the student of the grounds proper to a grade grievance, as stated above. The chair also will review relevant material and consult with the instructor in an effort to resolve the issue of the grade. (If the instructor involved is the chair, the student approaches the senior faculty member in the department to request mediation.)

In cases where a resolution mutually acceptable to the student and the instructor is not forthcoming, and the student wishes to pursue a formal grievance, the student may proceed to Stage II.

#### Stage II: Formal Grievance

As a precondition to filing a formal grievance, a student must fulfill all of his/her responsibilities and meet the deadline specified in Stage I: Mediation above.

By the end of the 30th class day of the semester, a student wishing to grieve a grade must file a written grievance with the instructor's school dean. This grievance must describe in detail the bases for the allegation that the grade was arbitrary and capricious, and include all evidence supporting that claim. The student must send copies of this statement to the instructor and the chair.

The dean will dismiss the grievance if the student 1) did not participate in Stage I: Mediation and/or meet the deadline specified in Stage I; 2) did not file the Stage II appeal by the stated deadline; 3) does not furnish evidence that the allegations, if true, constitute arbitrary and capricious grading, as defined above; and/or 4) has filed a complaint concerning the same grade with the Office of Affirmative Action/EEO alleging discrimination or sexual harassment.

If the grievance is not dismissed, the dean shall ask the instructor to respond to the grievance in writing within ten class days, addressing the response to the dean and copying the student and the chair. The dean will ask the chair to forward all documentary evidence collected during the mediation stage to the dean.

If the grievance is not dismissed, the dean shall appoint within ten class days a grade grievance committee of three tenured faculty members and shall schedule an informal, non-adversarial grade grievance hearing. The student, the instructor, and the chair will be invited to attend the hearing, and may present relevant evidence. The dean also will attend and may choose to participate in the discussion. In keeping with the informal nature of the hearing, neither the student nor the instructor may be accompanied by a representative or advisor. If the academic records of other students in the grievant's class are relevant to the discussion, the grievant must be excused for that portion of the hearing in order to protect the privacy of other students. At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee shall forward its recommendation to the dean, who may accept, reject or alter the recommendation. The dean shall render a decision to the student in writing, either in support of the original grade or of a grade change. If the dean recommends a grade change and the instructor refuses to change the grade, the dean will vacate and replace the grade in question.

In deciding whether the circumstances justify changing the grade, the dean shall determine whether the grievant has provided clear and convincing evidence of *arbitrary and capricious* grading. Copies of the dean's decision, which shall be final, will be filed with the instructor and the chair.

---

## Student Records Annual Notification

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (commonly referred to as the "Buckley Amendment"), students have certain rights regarding the inspection and disclosure of education records directly related to the student and maintained by the University.

1. The right to inspect and review, with certain exceptions as stated in University Policy, the student's educational records. Requests for inspection should be made in writing and directed to the Registrar's Office.
2. The right to request an amendment of the student's education records if the student believes that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's right to privacy or other rights. A request to amend education records must be made in writing and submitted to the Registrar.
3. The right not to have the University disclose personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records without the student's prior, written consent, except to the extent such disclosure is authorized under the Buckley Amendment and implementing regulations.
4. The right to obtain a copy of the University's Policy on Compliance with the Buckley Amendment. Copies are available in the Office of the Registrar. That Policy contains a thorough review of the students' rights under the Buckley Amendment.
5. The right to file with the U.S. Department of Education a complaint if the student believes that the University has failed to comply with the requirements of the Buckley Amendment. Complaints may be filed with the Family Policy and Regulations Office, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C., 20202.

The following categories of information will be considered by the University to be directory information:

name, address, hometown, telephone, date of birth, major, activities, and sports, weight and height for athletes, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent educational agency or institution attended, classification.

Under the Buckley Amendment, this information may be disclosed without the student's prior consent unless the student submits on an annual basis a Non-Disclosure of Information Form with the Office of the Registrar. Parents may gain access to records as long as they provide the Registrar with a certified copy of their income tax return as proof of a student's dependency.

Non-Disclosure of Information Forms must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar by the end of the drop/add period each semester.