

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 1511S

Date of Senate Approval 01/20/11

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 8:                   **Change in Academic Policy for Permission to Take a  
Course as a Visitor at Another Institution**

Effective Date:               **Fall 2011**

**1. Delete:** On page 32, the entry for Permission to Take a Course as a Visitor at Another Institution:

Students in good academic standing who wish to take courses at another regionally accredited institution must complete a visiting permission form and receive written approval from UNC Asheville's Office of the Registrar prior to enrolling at the other school. If a course is to be used as an Integrative Liberal Studies requirement or as an elective, approval is only required from the Office of the Registrar; if a course is a requirement for the major, written approval from the department chair of the student's major must be presented to the Office of the Registrar before permission can be granted.

Only students in good academic standing may have permission to visit another school. Students are considered to be in good academic standing if they are eligible to enroll for the next semester at UNC Asheville.

Students who have reached junior or senior standing (or if the courses requested will cause the student to exceed 60 semester hours) may not receive permission to receive course credit from a two-year school.

**Add:** On page 32, in place of deleted entry:

Students who wish to take courses at another regionally accredited institution must receive written permission from UNC Asheville's Office of the Registrar prior to enrolling at the other school. The Office of the Registrar gives approval for courses that will be used as electives or used to satisfy Integrative Liberal Studies requirements. If a course is to be used to satisfy a major requirement, written approval from the department chair of the student's major must be presented to the Office of the Registrar before the request will be considered. Only students whose cumulative GPA is a 2.0 or above may receive permission to visit another school.

Students must earn 60 semester hours from 4-year institutions in order to graduate. Those who have 60 or more hours of transferred credit from 2-year schools (or if the courses requested will cause the student to exceed 60 semester hours) may not take additional courses at another two year institution without special permission from the Office of the Registrar.

Students must complete their final 30 semester hours in residence at UNC Asheville. Those who wish to attend another institution after reaching senior standing (or if the courses requested will cause the student to exceed 90 semester hours) may take courses at another institution if they have an additional 30 hours of requirements to complete upon returning to UNC Asheville.

Forms detailing additional regulations and the procedures for requesting permission to visit another institution are available in the Office of the Registrar, and must be filed prior to the student attending the other institution.

**Impact:**

This change in policy will allow greater flexibility to students who may need to take a requirement for graduation at another institution, in particular two year schools.

**Rationale:**

There has been an increasing number of requests, particularly in the summer, from students who wish to attend 2-year schools after having 60 earned hours, in order to satisfy requirements for graduation. The requests have been in large part due to the current economic situation. By giving students greater flexibility to visit other schools, when appropriate, we extend to them the benefit of attending a school closer to their home, or where the tuition is lower. Courses taken during the summer are not counted toward the tuition surcharge, so allowing greater flexibility might help students avoid the surcharge, which recently increased to 50% of tuition.

Students will still be required to earn a minimum of 60 hours from 4-year schools and complete their last 30 hours in residence at UNC Asheville. The threshold of 60 and 90 hours can sometimes be arbitrary depending on a student's circumstances. Removing the automatic prohibition for students to attend another school once they reach these thresholds allows the flexibility of individually assessing a student's progress toward degree completion, and granting permission where appropriate. This could potentially allow students to complete requirements sooner.

Although this policy change gives students an opportunity that wasn't automatically available before, it is important that these requests be closely monitored by the Office of the Registrar in order to ensure students do not end up increasing their time and/or hours toward graduation. In other words, permission isn't likely to be given if taking a course at another school extends the student's required time at UNC Asheville.