



Office of Academic Affairs

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MEMO

Date: February 9, 2017

To: Dr. Lisa Walker
President, Faculty Council

From: Joan F. Lorden
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Cc: Gregory Mixon, Chair, FAPSC
Matt Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant

Re: UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

Our current academic policy on Baccalaureate Degree Requirements is unnecessarily stringent in the requirements set for students graduating with a baccalaureate degree. Our accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requires that:

“At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree”
(standard 3.5.2: <http://sacscoc.org/pdf/2012PrinciplesOfAccreditation.pdf>)

However, our academic policy requires specifically that *the last 25%* of requirements must be earned at UNC Charlotte. This requirement places an unnecessary burden on students who may have transferred courses to UNC Charlotte late in their degree program.

I am requesting that the Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee review the attached proposed revisions and seek approval for the policy change through Faculty Council if they agree it is warranted.

Thank you for your attention to this important policy issue.

Enclosure: UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

I. Introduction

All baccalaureate degrees require completion of a minimum of 120 credit hours and completion of the General Education requirements. To graduate from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, students must earn ~~the last at least~~ 25% of degree requirements ~~at UNC Charlotte~~ including the last 12 credit hours of work in the major field and at least 6 credit hours of a minor at UNC Charlotte, ~~and~~ must be in good academic standing, and must have earned a minimum grade point average of at least 2.0 in the major/minor.

Commented [WM1]: Added by FEC at 10-05-2017 Meeting

II. Policy Statement

CREDIT HOURS AND MAJOR

All baccalaureate degrees require completion of a minimum of 120 credit hours, including all requirements for a major field of study. Specific requirements for degrees and programs are presented under the college and departmental sections of the *Catalog*.

GENERAL EDUCATION

All baccalaureate degrees require completion of a common set of General Education requirements. Refer to the General Education Program section of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

RESIDENT REQUIREMENT

To graduate, a student must earn ~~the last at least~~ 25% of baccalaureate degree requirements at UNC Charlotte, including the last 12 credit hours of work in the major field and at least 6 credit hours of any minor field of study. Exceptions to these hour provisions may be made upon the recommendation of the student's major department and with the approval of the dean of the college of the student's major. (Please note: earning 25% of the degree at UNC Charlotte cannot be waived due to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation standards.)

Coursework taken in residence shall be construed to mean work offered by UNC Charlotte and taken in courses on the UNC Charlotte campus or at an approved off-campus center. ~~Credit earned by challenge examinations or other advanced standing examinations cannot be used to meet the residency requirement.~~

GRADE POINT AVERAGES

To graduate, a student must be in good academic standing and have earned a grade point average of at least 2.0 and a grade point average of at least 2.0 in the major and in any minor. Some programs require a higher grade point average. Specific requirements for degrees and programs are presented under the college and departmental sections of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.