

Motion re Transfer Credit and Academic Residency
Passed by Admissions and Standards, January 21, 2010

Motion:

Effective Summer 2010

1320.10 Transfer Credit (The following replaces the current policy.)

New Rules

When an applicant is accepted for undergraduate transfer admission, courses that parallel the curriculum of Georgia State University will be accepted for transfer credit. Credit must have been earned at institutions of higher education with full accreditation by one of the following accreditors:

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Western Association of Schools and Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Courses completed at a two-year college will be granted lower-division credit.

The total number of hours that may be earned toward a degree by extension or correspondence courses may not exceed 30 semester hours.

In general, transfer credit will not be awarded for a course that a student has previously attempted at Georgia State (including attempts which resulted in a withdrawal). However, individual departments may waive this rule for their courses.

Because the university has a minimum academic residence requirement, the amount of transfer credit applicable to a degree program may be limited. (See Section 1430.) In addition, Colleges and Departments have their own transfer credit policies and this may also limit the amount of transfer credit applicable to a degree program. All such policies are stated in this Catalog in the following sections:

[Insert list of colleges and departments with their own transfer credit policies and their section numbers in the Catalog.]

Georgia State maintains a web site, <http://www.gsu.edu/6121.html>, which indicates courses at other institutions that will be accepted as transfer credit (subject to the restrictions noted in this section). If a course at other institution is not on this list, students should consult [insert name of appropriate office].

The D Credit Grade Restriction applies to both resident and transfer credit. (See Section 1450.)

A student who takes a course at another institution will not receive transfer credit for that course until the end of the semester following the semester in which the course was taken. Therefore, students may not take courses for degree credit at another institution during the semester they graduate from Georgia State.

Transfer Credit for Core Courses

1. Students will be granted credit for all of Areas A-E of the core and the Regents' Test if they hold one of the following:
 - a. a baccalaureate degree from U.S. institution of higher education accredited by one of the six accreditors listed above
 - b. for those who have graduated from a non-U.S. institution, the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree from a U.S. institution of higher education accredited by one of the six accreditors listed above as certified by Georgia State or a Georgia State-approved agency such as Joseph Silny and Associates, Inc.
 - c. an associate's degree designed to transfer to a baccalaureate program from a University System of Georgia (USG) institution

2. However, there are two exceptions to the policy stated in 1 above.
 - a. Students seeking a baccalaureate degree in biology, chemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, physics, science education, or math education who do not hold a baccalaureate degree in one of these fields will only be granted credit for all of Areas B, C, and E. They will be granted credit in Areas A and D on a course-by-course basis.
 - b. Students seeking a baccalaureate degree in nursing, nutrition or respiratory therapy will only be granted credit for all of Areas A, B, C, and E. They will be granted credit in Area D on a course-by-course basis.

3. Students who hold any other associate's degree, such as an associate's degree from a non-USG institution or an associate's degree not designed to transfer to a baccalaureate program, will be granted transfer credit for core courses on a course-by-course basis.

1450 Academic Residence Requirement

Additions ~~Deletions~~

Academic residence is defined as being enrolled in one or more courses at Georgia State University; this is not to be confused with status as a legal resident of the State of Georgia for fee determination purposes. The minimum academic residence requirement for each baccalaureate degree is as follows:

1. The candidate must earn 39 semester hours at Georgia State in courses numbered 3000 or above with an average grade of at least a C (2.00 GPA); and
2. At least one-half of the ~~courses~~ *hours* comprising the major ~~or 11 semester hours in the major;~~

~~whichever is less,~~ must be taken at Georgia State.

Transfer credit, credit by examination, credit by validation, CLEP credit, AP credit, and courses specifically excluded by university policy cannot be used to meet the academic residence requirement.

Rationale:

In addition to editorial clean up, this motion makes several changes to the transfer credit and residency requirements. These two requirements are linked because the residency requirement is a limit on the amount of transfer credit that can be counted towards the degree.

This motion repeals the rule that “no credit will be awarded for a grade earned at a foreign institution that is equivalent to a grade of D in the United States.” This rule allows credit for grades of D from two-year institutions in the US (e.g., Coastal Georgia College) but not from prestigious foreign research institutions (e.g., University of Toronto). This does not seem appropriate. As noted above, this motion does not repeal the rule that only 12 hours of D credit may apply towards the degree.

This motion repeals the rule that “a maximum of 60 semester hours from a two-year college or 81 semester hours from a four-year college may be applied in the program for which the applicant enrolls.” This rule is complex and expensive to implement. It is taking significant time of individuals in the OAA offices who could be better used to advise students. In addition, Georgia State is the only institution in the USG who has these rules. This has led students to file complaints with the BOR. In addition, as we seek to attract more and better qualified transfer students, this rule puts us at a competitive disadvantage.

The rule that students may complete a major at Georgia State by taking only 11 hours in the major seems to be insufficient to insure the integrity of the degree. Some degree programs have well more than 22 hours (e.g., Biology requires 39). In some cases, 11 hours in the major is less than one-third of the major courses. 11 hours in the major is lower than most other USG institutions including UGA (15), Clayton State (21) and Kennesaw State (24). It seems we should change our requirements to be more in line with other institutions.

There is a relationship the 60/81 rule and the academic residency major rule. The point of both rules is to insure that integrity of the GSU degree. The 60/81 rule is an administratively complex and time-consuming attempt to insure integrity. The change to the rules regarding residency in the major simplifies a rule and is easy to implement. In this time of tight budgets, we should move to this more efficient method of insuring the integrity of the GSU degree.

Academic Residency at Some Other USG Schools

UGA

Candidates for first baccalaureate degrees who matriculate at UGA fall 2003 and thereafter must earn at least 45 of the last 60 semester credit hours in residence. In addition, 15 of the semester credit hours required for a student's major must be earned in residence. (Some majors may require more than the minimum of 15 semester credit hours.)

Georgia Tech

No student may be considered a candidate for a degree unless the final 36 credit hours required for the degree are earned in residence at Georgia Tech and approved by the major school. [Note: various colleges and departments at Tech seem to have their own residency requirements.]

Clayton State

Students desiring to earn a degree from Clayton State University must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours from Clayton State University. 21 of these 30 must be in upper division major course work. Advisors should refer to their Academic Dean or Associate Dean in regards to specific residency requirements involving their college or school.

Kennesaw State

A student must complete at least 30 semester hours in residence at Kennesaw State (Coles College of Business requires 33 hours). At least 20 of the last 30 semester hours preceding graduation must be earned in residence. In addition, 24 semester hours of the upper level major requirements must be earned in residence at KSU.

Georgia Southern

Students must earn at least 25 percent (30 semester hours) of their degree requirements in residence at Georgia Southern University. The last 30 semester hours of work must be earned at Georgia Southern University, unless an exception is made for the student to be a transient student at another institution. A student cannot complete requirements immediately following the term he/she is in attendance as a transient student at another institution unless an official transcript of transient credit is received by the Registrar prior to the end of the semester at Georgia Southern University.

For the B.A. degree, a maximum of 30 semester hours of upper division course work in the major may be allowed to count toward the minimum of 125 hours required for graduation. For the B.S. degree, a maximum of 40 semester hours of upper division course work in the major may be allowed to count toward the minimum of 125 hours required for graduation. At least half of the courses required in the major must be taken at Georgia Southern University. At least nine semester hours of the fifteen required in the minor must be taken at Georgia Southern University. At least twelve semester hours of the eighteen required in the concentration must be taken at Georgia Southern University. The amount of academic credit accepted in transfer may not exceed the normal amount of credit that could have been earned at Georgia Southern University

during that time.

Valdosta State

Of the 40 semester hours immediately preceding graduation, at least 30 must be taken in residence at Valdosta State University. Any student admitted to the University for the final year must be in residence for two semesters and must complete in this time at least 30 semester hours in residence, including 21 hours of senior college work in the major.

Applicants for advanced standing may not apply more than 90 semester hours of academic credits from other colleges toward a degree from Valdosta State University.

Of

those, only 60 semester hours may be junior college courses.