

REVISED for November 14, 2014, Senate Meeting:

**Motion FS_2014-28: Executive Committee (Legislation. Majority vote at one meeting)
Core Transfer Reciprocity Policy (no second required)**

WHEREAS the State of Arkansas has adopted various legislation to facilitate transfer for Arkansas students of higher education, including Act 98 of 1989, Act 182 of 2009, and Act 747 of 2011 (codified in ACA §6-61-218 and ACA §6-61-231) along with earlier legislation (codified in ACA §6-61-216); and

WHEREAS it is appropriate for individual Arkansas institutions and UALR colleges to develop general education (or “core”) curricula that reflect the values and interests of those institutions and colleges; and

WHEREAS UALR faculty and administrative believe it is important not to penalize students who transfer among these institutions and colleges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That UALR shall repeal the December 5, 2008, policy [see Commentary] regarding core transfer;

That UALR shall adopt the following Core Transfer Reciprocity Policy. ~~for transfer students from public Arkansas institutions.~~ This policy shall replace the sections of UALR Policy 517.1 that pertain to core transfer and transfer of associate degrees [see Commentary]:

1. Transfer students from public Arkansas institutions shall be deemed to have met *all* UALR core requirements and shall not be required to complete any additional core courses if they transfer in a completed designated transfer degree (an AA, AS, or AAT) or 60 completed hours that include 35 hours of the state minimum core.
2. Transfer students from public Arkansas institutions shall be deemed to have met a *specific* core requirement and shall not be required to complete an additional core course for that requirement if they transfer in a course included in the state ACTS system that matches a course in the UALR core.
3. Transfer students from public Arkansas institutions, including students transferring between UALR colleges, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of a *core curricular area* and shall not be required to complete an additional core course in that area if they transfer in a course taken to meet a core

curricular area requirement at the sending institution or UALR college.

4. Transfer students from regionally accredited out of state or private institutions, including those transferring in completed associate degrees, who have completed coursework in the following distribution shall be deemed to have met the core requirement in that core curricular area and shall only be required to take coursework from the area(s) they are missing:

English/Communications: 6-9 hours

Math 3 hours

Science 8 hours

Fine Arts/Humanities 6-9 hours

Social Sciences 9-12 hours, including 3 hours of
US History or American National Government

5. A “designated transfer degree” is an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts in Teaching – or any future associate degree program approved by ADHE--that includes a 35-hour state core curriculum.
6. “Core curricular area” refers to one of the five categories established in the State Minimum Core Curriculum by Act 98 of 1989: English/Communications, Math, Science, Fine Arts/Humanities, and Social Sciences.
7. This policy shall not keep individual programs from requiring students to complete specific core courses as (1) degree program requirements, (2) pre-requisites for degree program requirements, or (3) licensing requirements.
8. Courses that do not transfer because of the “D” policy may not be used to fulfill core requirements.
9. The inter-college reciprocity policy shall only apply to a student who has officially declared a major in the sending college; and

That the Senate shall repeal any other prior legislation regarding core transfer that conflicts with the provisions of the 2014 Core Transfer Reciprocity Policy.

Commentary

The State of Arkansas has committed to facilitating student transfer among Arkansas institutions since as long ago as 1946. Over the years, the rules have changed but the basic philosophy remains, as reflected in this statute:

In order to promote a coordinated system of higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the publicly supported institutions of higher education, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall have the power and duty to develop, with the assistance of institutional advisory committees, policies for transfer students from community

colleges to senior institutions, for transfer of students among institutions of the same type, and for transfer of students from vocational and technical schools to other institutions. (ACA §6-61-216(a) (2014))

As of 2014 there are two mandates all institutions in the state must follow:

- 1) *The Designated Transfer Degree* policy, established in ACA §6-61-231 (2014), which requires all institutions to accept a completed core from students who transfer with a degree designated for transfer (an AA, AS, or AAT) or a completed 60-hour curriculum that includes the 35-hour state minimum core.
- 2) *The Arkansas Course Transfer System*, or ACTS, established in ACA §6-61-218 (2014), which specifies through a course-by-course mapping system, which courses taken at other state institutions are equivalent in terms of core to courses taken at UALR.

Each iteration of the state rules has led to modifications in UALR rules as reflected in Senate policies, Transfer Office procedures, and catalog copy. While these policies, procedures, and statements do not directly contradict each other, they appear in the catalog as a loosely related collection of rules rather than as a coherent policy. They are often confusing to students, faculty, and advisors alike. The intent of this motion is to provide a coherent and transparent policy that incorporates all of the various pieces at the state and institution level.

Additionally, the intent of the motion is to provide a consistent approach to how we handle core transfer from other state institutions or among colleges. Determining which core courses transfer and what requirements they meet should be done through the degree audit and should not require individual advisors to make decisions and submit individualized degree adjustment (IDA) requests. The IDA approach is burdensome and leads to inconsistent results across campus.

Finally, the intent of the motion is to extend the principle of facilitating transfer to those situations not currently covered by state rules and to transfers between colleges at UALR.

As noted there are several existing UALR policies being modified or deleted.

The policy in the motion referred to as being deleted is from the December 5, 2008, Faculty Senate, and it should be deleted since it refers to the old 44-hour “Blue Ribbon core”:

December 5, 2008 Legislation

~~*That students transferring to the University from a regionally accredited college or university shall meet the UALR core requirement if they transfer 44 hours meeting the following distribution of courses:*~~

- 1) ~~3 hours of college algebra or college mathematics;~~
- 2) ~~6 hours of English composition;~~
- 3) ~~6-12 hours of social science~~
- 4) ~~3 hours of U.S. history or U.S. government~~
- 5) ~~8 hours of lab science;~~
- 6) ~~6-12 hours of arts and humanities, and~~
- 7) ~~0-3 hours of speech.~~

~~Students missing some of this distribution of courses will only be required to add the courses they are missing. These missing courses must be added from the approved core courses in the corresponding UALR areas.~~

~~This legislation becomes effective for students entering UALR Spring 2009. Students who entered UALR prior to Spring 2009 may choose to use this policy.~~

Another existing UALR policy that is affected is TransFlex, the 2011 and 2012 Senate legislation that allows advisors to adjust the core curriculum and the requirement to have a minor for some transfer students. (see <http://ualr.edu/policy/home/student/transflex/>) As we phase out the old core and the minor requirement, TransFlex will become moot.

Finally, as noted in the motion, the Course Transfer Reciprocity Policy should replace the sections on core and associate degree transfer within UALR policy 517.1:

Policy 517.1:

Definition of Transfer Student

A transfer student is one who has previously enrolled at another college or university at any time and acquired more than 12 hours of academic credit.

Transfer Students' Entrance Requirements

Transfer students are those who have been enrolled previously in a higher institution of learning and have at least 12 transferable college credit hours and a grade point average of at least 2.00 on all previous college work to be granted regular admission. Such applicants must submit:

1. Completed application for admission.
2. Official transcript of each college previously attended sent to UALR by the college.
3. Proof of two MMR immunizations (required of all applicants born after January 1, 1957).

Transfer credit from regionally accredited institutions will be evaluated only after a completed application for admission and final transcripts have been received.

Transcripts

Transcripts from institutions not accredited by the regional accrediting associations will be handled at the discretion of the Director of Records and Registration. Students presenting such transcripts may be given provisional credit subject to the satisfactory completion of further work at UALR in subjects for which they are asking advanced standing and a satisfactory grade point average. However, such transcripts may be refused altogether. Only official transcripts will be accepted for evaluation. They must include complete records of the courses taken at all other institutions and be sent to UALR by the institutions. The director may also request that a catalog or bulletin of the years covered by the transcript be presented.

Transfer Students and Majors

All transfer students are initially admitted into University College. After deciding on a major, students should ask the department chairperson or the dean of the college in that area to evaluate his or her transfer work. A given course may be accepted toward the total hours required for a degree at UALR, but may not be accepted as meeting a specific course requirement for the core curriculum or for a major or minor. The transfer credit equivalency guide for Arkansas schools is available on the Records and Registration website at <http://ualr.edu/records/tca/guide.asp>.

Transferring Coursework

Only courses taken at regionally accredited institutions will transfer to UALR. Only credit hours earned at other institutions will transfer; grades and GPA do not transfer and are not calculated in the student's GPA earned at UALR. However, all grades from all universities are calculated for honors. Only courses with grades of C or greater will transfer automatically; however, a student may request to transfer as many as six credit hours with a grade of D from any accredited college or university. Credit for the hours will be accepted as transfer credit if the course meets requirements for transfer course credit and if a student would be allowed to earn a grade of D if the class were offered at UALR. A student may take advantage of this policy at any time prior to the awarding of an undergraduate degree.

Transferring Core or General Education Courses

As a public, state institution, UALR participates in the State Minimum Core Curriculum, which allows students to transfer up to 35 hours of general education or core courses among Arkansas institutions. Students transferring to or from UALR and another publicly supported Arkansas college or university should check with their advisors to assure proper transfer of core or general education courses.

The Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) contains information about the transferability of courses within Arkansas public colleges and universities. Students are guaranteed the transfer of applicable credits and equitable treatment in the application of credits for admissions and degree requirements. Students may complete specified General Education courses anywhere in the public system as well as many courses in the degree or major that have been pre-identified for transfer.

Transferring Associate Degrees In-State Public Associate Degrees

Students entering the University with an associate degree (with the exception of an associates of applied science) approved for transfer from an Arkansas college or university subject to the Articulation Agreement of ADHE of 1994 meet the UALR core requirements, effective Fall semester 2006.

In-State Private and Out-of-State Associate Degrees

Students entering the University with an associate degree (with the exception of an Associates of Applied Science) from outside of Arkansas or from an Arkansas non-public college or university will demonstrate their degree came from a regionally accredited college or university and includes:

- 3 hours of college algebra or college mathematics, or higher mathematics course
- 6 hours of English composition
- 9 to 15 hours of social science including a 3-hour course on U.S. history or U.S. government
- 6 to 8 hours of lab science
- 6 to 12 hours of arts and humanities, and
- 0 to 3 hours of speech

Such a degree will satisfy UALR's core requirements. Students who have an associate degree of at least 60 hours and are missing some of this distribution of courses will be required only to add the courses they are missing.