



President of the Faculty Senate

TO : Faculty Senate
FROM: Andrew Wright, President of the UALR Assembly and Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Transflex and the new Core
DATE: May 5, 2016
NUMBER: FSM-2016-7

Transflex was a pilot program that became a legislated policy to authorize departments to make changes in degree requirements for transfer students.

The original pilot was approved on 11/30/2007. The duration was extended on 11/19/2010. Transflex was converted into policy for the university on 1/28/2011, and modified to its current form on 5/4/2012.

The current version of Transflex is:

In order to facilitate the progress of transfer students within their majors toward a baccalaureate degree, departments offering undergraduate degrees are hereby authorized to revise graduation requirements for transfer students within the constraints described below:

1. To be eligible for a Transflex modification, a student must transfer in to UALR at least 12 college-level credits.

2. The following graduation requirements will continue to apply:

- Minimum hours (120) and GPA (2.00) required for graduation
- Minimum hours and GPA required for majors and minors
- Foreign language competence for BA majors
- Mathematics & U.S. History/Government
- 45 upper level hours
- 30 hours in residence

3. Flexibility will be permitted on the following requirements provided that the intentions of these requirements are kept in mind and honored:

- core requirements*
- the requirement to complete a minor

*While students entering UALR with a high number of semester credit hours (75 or more) in transfer should be given the benefit of a broad interpretation regarding satisfaction of core requirements, the state specified 35-hour core would be applicable.

I. With changes in degree requirements, the current version of Transflex only allows modifications to core requirements.

Was the intention of the Core Transfer Reciprocity Policy, FS_2014_28, which specifically called out repeal of the 12/5/2008 core transfer legislation and which additionally intended to “replace all legislation that pertains to core transfer and transfer of associate degrees” to repeal Transflex?

Since Transflex was intended to apply to all degree requirements, not just core, it was not repealed by FS_2014_28. In particular, in the discussion to pass FS_2014_28, the following is recorded in the 11/14/2014 minutes:

Discussion went back and forth with one side favoring the idea that specificity will give clarity, and the other side stating the vagueness might work in our favor in case there is other legislation that parts of this policy is replacing. Transflex was brought up in this context. *Sen. Jovanovic asked if transflex would become moot. Sen. Matson replied that transflex does not conflict and will stay in existence.*

II. Confusion has arisen, with the 35 credit core, what the intent behind the footnote is. ACA-6-61-231 authorized the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide clarity on the 35 credit general education requirements of the state minimum core curriculum, and ACA-6-61-218 led to the following distributions:

English/Communication

English Composition 6

Speech Communication 0-3

Math 3*. College algebra or course as sophisticated as college algebra

*Institutions may require students majoring in math, engineering, science, and business to take higher math as part of the state minimum core.

Science 8**. Science courses must include laboratories.

**Institutions may require students majoring in math, engineering, science, education, and health related professions to take higher or specific science courses as part of the state minimum core.

Fine Arts/Humanities 6-9*** Must be broad survey courses(s).

Social Sciences

US History or Government 3

Other Social Science 6-9***

***Institutions may require students majoring in engineering to take either six hours of humanities and social sciences at the junior/senior level or substitute an additional six hours of higher math and/or additional science as part of the state minimum core.

Total 35

The intent of the Transflex footnote was that departments could substitute any combination of core courses, whether taken natively or transferred, so long that the final result of courses would satisfy the state minimum core distributions as designated by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Any disagreements regarding a Transflex substitution should be resolved using the process for core transfer appeals.