



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

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TO: Tom Hansford, Chair, Divisional Council

FROM: Erin Webb, University Registrar

RE: Regulation Review Request | Part II. Section 2. A. Residency Requirement

DATE: October 15, 2019

With this memo, I write to request Senate review of the enclosed proposal to align our local Residency Requirement with systemwide Senate Regulation (SR) 630. Our local Residency Requirement is currently less restrictive than the systemwide regulation.

Our local Residency Requirement, Part II. Section 2. A., included in the attached proposal, requires an undergraduate student take a minimum of 24 of their last 36 units in residence. Conversely, the systemwide regulation requires an undergraduate student take a minimum of 24 of their last 30 units in residence. This proposal seeks to change our local regulation to require an undergraduate student to take a minimum of 24 of their last 30 units in residence, although the policy still allows for Dean exceptions.

Since academic year 2014-15, had this more restrictive policy had been in effect, 101 students would have been in violation. That is about 20 students per academic year. However, had this policy been in place, advisors would have directed student to stay within policy limits.

Your consideration of this proposed policy is appreciated. If approved, the more restrictive policy would effective Fall 2020 and apply to all students. An update would be appreciated by February 1, 2020 to ensure the policy can be implemented and included with the 2020-21 Catalog copy.

[SR 630.A](#)

Except as otherwise provided in this section and SR 614, 35 (or 24 semester) of the final 45 (or 30 semester) units completed by each candidate for the Bachelor's degree must be earned in residence in the college or school of the University of California in which the degree is to be taken. (Am 9 Mar 83; Am 23 May 01)

[Part II. Section 2. A. Residency Requirement](#)

A minimum of 24 of the last 36 units in academic residence is required prior to the award of the bachelor's degree. Under certain circumstances, the appropriate dean or Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education may grant exceptions, such as when a student attends classes at another UC campus as an approved visitor or participates in one of the following: UC Education Abroad, UC Washington Center Program or UC Sacramento Center.

Recommended Line Through Change to UC Merced Regulation

A minimum of 24 of the last ~~36~~30 units in academic residence is required prior to the award of the bachelor's degree. Under certain circumstances, the appropriate dean or Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education may grant exceptions, such as when a student attends classes at another UC campus as an approved visitor or participates in one of the following: UC Education Abroad, UC Washington Center Program or UC Sacramento Center.

Laura Martin

From: Erin Webb
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 9:52 AM
To: Laura Martin
Cc: UCM Senate Office
Subject: RE: Senate Request for Review of Part II. Section 2. A.

Hello, Laura.

The most common reason students would have been found to be in violation of the proposed policy is taking courses at another institution after their last semester. It isn't particularly clear why a student might chose to do this, but here are some data points:

- Forty of the 101 students took more than six units at another institution in their final term. Twenty-Two of those 40 took those units during the summer term. A majority of these 22 students were enrolled full-time in the Fall and Spring semesters leading into their final summer.
- Nine of the 101 students took a course (average of about six units) in the fall semester at another institution, which were the last units they needed to complete their degree. Even though they didn't take more than six units at another institution in their final term (like the previous bullet point), they *also* took courses at another institution over the immediate preceding summer, which put them over the six unit limit.
- Eighteen of the 101 students only took courses at UC Merced in their final term, but took more than six units at another institution within their last 30 units.
- Sixteen of the 101 students violated the [Normal Progress to Degree](#) policy that prohibits attendance beyond nine semesters without dean approval. I imagine these students took coursework at another institution because they were not allowed to take courses at UC Merced to complete their degree.
- Twelve of the 101 are in violation of the current policy (took more than 12 units), and, therefore, must have received a Dean's exception.

It is truly a mixture of different circumstances that lead students to take coursework outside of UC Merced in their final year, which is why I can't lump each and every student into a bucket (i.e. $40 + 9 + 18 + 16 + 12$ does not = 101). Instead of looking at student circumstances, I could try to determine the types of courses students were taking at the outside institution, if that would be helpful?

Let me know if this information isn't what was Chair Hansford was expecting—I might be able to look in more detail at the individual student files.

Erin

From: Laura Martin
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 1:07 PM
To: Erin Webb <ewebb2@ucmerced.edu>
Cc: UCM Senate Office <senateoffice@ucmerced.edu>
Subject: RE: Senate Request for Review of Part II. Section 2. A.

Dear Erin:

Thank you very much. The Senate will consider this.

In discussing this with Chair Hansford, he wondered if it would be possible to receive a list of the reasons students would have been in violation of the proposed revision had it been in place. This will help the Senate understand what will be impacted by the revisions (and for what exemptions may eventually be needed).

Thank you very much. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

All the best,
Laura



LAURA E. MARTIN, PH.D.
she/her/hers

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ACADEMIC SENATE
ACCREDITATION LIAISON OFFICER

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BUILDING THE FUTURE IN THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA

From: Erin Webb <ewebb2@ucmerced.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10:47 AM
To: UCM Senate Chair <senatechair@ucmerced.edu>
Cc: Laura Martin <lmartin@ucmerced.edu>; UCM Senate Office <senateoffice@ucmerced.edu>
Subject: Senate Request for Review of Part II. Section 2. A.

Dear Chair Hansford,

Attached to this email is a request for senate review of UCM Regulation Part II. Section 2. A. Our current local policy is less restrictive than the systemwide regulation.

If there are any concerns, questions, or adjustments, let me know.

Erin



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