



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: April 26, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: New transfer credit subcategories and Advanced Standing definition

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee approves changes to academic regulations.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The School of Graduate Studies proposes to introduce three subcategories of Transfer Credit (Transfer Credit – Course Equivalent; Transfer Credit – General Equivalent; and Course Exemption), and to introduce a definition of Advanced Standing.

Introduction of three subcategories of transfer credit: In dealing with matters relating to transfer credit, there are several commonly used terms which require clarification to align with current practice. Currently, the term transfer credit is described in general terms which does not adequately reflect the different types of transfer credit and denominations that exist. The objective of the change is to convey the practices of the School of Graduate Studies and to facilitate student transfer by implementing a clear, coherent, and common set of understandings regarding transfer credit.

Introduction of definition of Advanced Standing: Graduate units with different program requirements for students with different academic preparation or backgrounds require language to more clearly identify objectives and/or course requirements for an advanced standing option. It is expected that with the introduction of this language, where necessary, advanced standing options will be clearly stated in departmental handbooks and webpages. Such statements will assist graduate units and SGS in determining when a student has met their degree requirements and also will ensure that students clearly understand the program requirements they are required to meet.

The proposal was approved by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies on February 21, 2006.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approve:

THAT the School of Graduate Studies introduce three subcategories of Transfer Credit and a definition of Advanced Standing, as described above and in the attached calendar entry, effective September 2006.

Revised text for SGS Calendar, 2006-2007 edition, Registration Policies and Procedures section

It is proposed that the following text will replace the entry on Transfer Credit entry currently found on pp. 58 of the 2005-2006 SGS Calendar.

Transfer Credit and Exemptions

Transfer credit for graduate work completed in another program is limited to one full course or equivalent, or 25 percent of the course requirements for any degree, whichever is greater, provided that the courses have not been credited towards another degree, diploma, certificate, or any other qualifications. Such credit may be given on the recommendation of the student's graduate unit and with the School's approval normally upon admission. Exceptions to the limit are allowed when approved for specific degrees.

Students participating in an approved exchange program on the recommendation of their graduate unit may receive transfer credit for up to 50 percent of the course requirements for their degree. They may also complete language requirements while on the exchange. When recommended by the unit and approved by the AssociateSGS Dean, that percentage may be exceeded by doctoral students. In all cases transfer credit arrangements for exchange program participants must be approved in advance by the Associate Dean or designate.

Transfer of credit and course exemptions include the following categories:

i. *Transfer Credit – Course Equivalent:* Credit received for course completed in a prior program is considered to be equivalent to course offered by the graduate unit thus reducing the overall course credit requirements for degree.

ii. *Transfer Credit- General Equivalent:* Unassigned credit for course not identifiable with course offerings but which is evaluated as being appropriate for academic credit on transfer thus reducing overall course credit requirements for degree.

iii. *Course Exemption:* The graduate unit may exempt a student from a specific course requirement permitting the substitution of another course to meet degree requirements. Overall course credit requirements for degree are not reduced.

~~Advanced Standing~~

~~Advanced standing refers to academic credit awarded upon admission to a program of study which enables direct entry to a second or higher academic achievement level of the program. Students are eligible for advanced standing if they meet a clearly articulated set of objectives and/or course requirements as outlined in the graduate program calendar entry.~~

Advanced Standing

Advanced standing refers to academic credit awarded upon admission to a program of study which enables direct entry to an identified higher academic achievement level of the program. Students are eligible for advanced standing if they meet a clearly articulated set of objectives and/or course requirements for an advanced standing option as defined in the graduate program calendar entry. Not every program will offer an advanced standing option. Consult the graduate unit regarding advanced standing options.