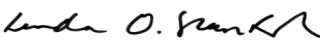


MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

December 23, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Directors and Chairpersons

FROM: Linda O. Stanford 
Associate Provost for Academic Services

RE: **Policy Change - Reduction of the credits earned in Lifelong Education enrollment status eligible to be applied to a Master's degree program from 10 to 9 credits**

The University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) made and approved a recommendation to reduce the credits earned in Lifelong Education enrollment status eligible to be applied to a master's degree program from 10 to 9 credits. The recommendation was reviewed by the University Graduate Council (UGC) and approved at its May 5, 2008 meeting. The UGC submitted the following motion for consideration by Academic Council on November 18, 2008, which was approved.

Motion for Academic Council:

Reduce the credits earned in Lifelong Education enrollment status eligible to be applied to a master's degree program from 10 to 9 credits.

Proposal:

Benefits

Increased clarity for students and advisers about how many credits are eligible to be transferred from any category. Adoption of this policy change brings consistency to the transfer policy relating to credits applicable toward a master's degree program.

Impact

Adoption of this policy change was based on the need to explore how credits earned in the Lifelong Education enrollment status and transfer graduate credits relate to a master's degree program, and whether a combined maximum credit policy should be enacted in order to avoid problems with students applying 18 credits (9 in transfer, 9 from Lifelong) toward a Michigan State University master's degree program. A separate policy was approved to allow a combined maximum of 9 credits to be applied to a master's degree program from transfer courses, Lifelong Education enrollment status, and the Graduate Certificate level with no more than 9 credits from each category, except for 12 graduate certificate credits permitted in the College of Education.



UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM and CATALOG

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Previous Policy

“No more than 10 credits taken while enrolled under the Lifelong Education enrollment status may be applied to the graduate degree program.”

- *Academic Programs*, p. 87, Lifelong Education Enrollment Status

“As many as 9 semester credits of graduate course work (excluding research and thesis credits) may be transferred into a 30-credit master's degree program from other accredited institutions or international institutions of similar quality, if they are appropriate to a student's program and provided they were completed within the time limits approved for the earning of the degree desired at Michigan State University. The department or school chairperson or director and dean must grant approval. Only courses in which at least a 3.0 grade or its equivalent was received will be considered for transfer. Exceptions to this policy (at least a 2.0 grade) have been granted for the dual degree programs between MSU and the Michigan State University College of Law. Some colleges with programs that require more than 30 credits for the degree may accept more than 9 credits in transfer, but not more than one-fourth of the total number of credits required for the master's degree may be accepted in transfer.”

- *Academic Programs*, p.63, Master’s Programs – Transfer Credit

Rationale for Change

The previous policy allowed for a greater number of credits to be transferred from a non-matriculated

program than from a matriculated program. This practice devalues a student’s participation as a matriculant in a master’s degree program.

Previous practice was confusing to students and advisers because the number of credits eligible to be transferred into a master’s degree program is consistently 9 from the various categories except from Lifelong Education credits. Having the number of credits applicable to the master’s degree be the same from all categories provides consistency.

There was no discernible historical reason for 10 credits being accepted from the Lifelong Education enrollment status.

View Academic Programs:

You may view *Academic Programs* for the updated language with regard to the approved policy changes.

Academic Program Terminology –

<http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s507>

Graduate Certificate Programs –

<http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=111#s2244>

Policy and Procedures for Graduate Certificate Programs -

<http://www.reg.msu.edu/Read/UCC/gradcert.pdf>

Lifelong Education Enrollment Status –

<http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s512>

Specific questions regarding graduate certificate programs may be directed to Doug McKenna, Associate Registrar for Certification Services, mckenn62@msu.edu or 3-7283.

cc: Kim Wilcox, Provost
Karen Klomparens, Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Dean
of The Graduate School
Doug Estry, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean
of Undergraduate Studies
Dugald McMillan, Acting University Registrar
Linda Good, Chairperson, University Committee on Curriculum
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Traci Gulick, Associate Registrar for Academic Records
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