

To: The University Senate
From: University Senate Educational Policy Committee
Subject: Update to Academic Regulations to Allow Larger Graduate Student Credit Limit
Reference: [Academic Regulations, Registration and Course Assignment](#)
(Section C: Allowable Academic Load)
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption
Rationale: James L. Mohler, as Associate Dean of the Graduate School, requested an Update to Academic Regulations, Registration and Course Assignment (Section C)

Many graduate programs, particularly in programs administered by Purdue Online and the School of Business, have plan of study structures that allow for and require students to take credits in excess of the limits historically set by the University. Increasing the credit limit for all graduate students will allow programs to operate more efficiently, reduce confusion in registration processes, and reduce manual labor in providing overrides in the Banner system for students who are attempting to register in alignment with program guidance.

Proposal: The Graduate School requests that the allowable academic load (Registration and Course Assignment, Section C) be updated to differentiate between graduate and undergraduate or professional students, and to increase the credit maximum allowed for graduate students from 18 to 19 credits in the fall and spring semester and up to 13 credits in the summer session.

Current Language

1. Credit hours in excess of 18 hours during a regular session shall be carefully monitored by the academic advisor, who may wish to consult with appropriate University personnel concerning the student's prognosis for success. Unless the student's curriculum requirement for that session is specified as greater than 18 credit hours, approval by the dean of their school or the dean's designee must be obtained before the student may be assigned more than 18 credit hours.
2. In summer session, a student may not be assigned to more than nine credit hours without approval by the dean of their school or the dean's designee (University Senate Document 83-5, as amended and approved January 23, 1984).

Proposed Language

1. Credit hours in excess of 18 hours during a regular session **for undergraduate and professional students and in excess of 19 hours for graduate students** shall be carefully monitored by the academic advisor, who may wish to consult with appropriate University personnel concerning the student's prognosis for success. Unless the student's curriculum requirement for that session is specified as greater than the credit limit noted above, approval by the dean of their school or the dean's designee must be obtained before the student may be assigned more than **the credit limit set for the student's degree level.**
2. In summer session, **an undergraduate or professional** student may not be assigned to more than nine credit hours without approval by the dean of their school or the dean's designee (University Senate Document 83-5, as amended and approved January 23, 1984). **Graduate students may not take in excess of 13 credits in summer session without approval from the dean of their school or the dean's designee and the Graduate School.**

Committee Votes:

For:

Faculty

Eric Kvam (chair)
PV Ramachandran
Mark Russell
Steven Scott
John Sheffield
Monica Torres
Jeffrey X. Watt

Advisors

Jeff Elliott
Keith Gehres
Heather Servaty-Seib
Jeffery Stefancic

Students

Andrew Askounis

Against:

N/A

Abstained:

N/A

Absent:

Faculty

Burton (Lee) Artz
Daniel Frank
Stacy Lindshield
Mushin Menekse
Abdelfattah Nour
Antônio Sá Barreto
Howard Sypher

Advisors

Jenna Rickus

Students

Andrew Mitchell
Shye Robinson