

Regulation Related to Fostering Undergraduate Student Success

I. Required Semester Credit Hours for Baccalaureate Degree Programs

Baccalaureate degree programs shall require no more than 120 semester credit hours. An institution with compelling reasons as to why a program's requirements must exceed 120 semester credit hours may petition to have an exception approved by its board of trustees. Compelling reasons include, but are not limited to: programmatic accreditation standards; licensure requirements; and other state, federal, or professional regulations.

An institution must report any exceptions granted by its board of trustees, and the reasons for those exceptions, to the Board of Governors and the president by the end of calendar year 2018 and annually thereafter.

Any program authorized by the Board of Governors to require 135 semester credit hours or more shall be officially designated as a five-year baccalaureate program.

A. Constituent institutions shall observe these regulations in all proposals for new degree programs.

B. This section applies to individual baccalaureate degree programs, not to credit hour requirements for students who earn more than one major.

C. Constituent institutions must publicize the required number of semester credit hours and projected length of full-time enrollment required to obtain each baccalaureate degree in both printed and online catalogs. During new student orientation sessions and in publications for students and parents, constituent institutions must provide a description of factors that may prolong the length of time to complete a degree.

D. General Administration will maintain a catalog of all active baccalaureate degree programs and their required hours, and the Board of Governors will periodically review compliance with this 120-credit limitation, including approved exceptions to that limitation.

This section is effective as of the beginning of the fall 2019 semester, and shall not affect the credit hour requirements in place at the time of registration for students who registered at a constituent institution prior to the fall 2019 semester. Students who registered at a constituent institution prior to the fall 2019 semester will have the option to elect into the fall 2019 catalog.