

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Revisions to Senate Policy 14-10, Limitations to Enrollment as a Nondegree Student

(Legislative)

Implementation: Upon Approval by the President

Introduction

This legislative report comprises suggested revisions to Policy 14-10, Limitations to Enrollment as a Nondegree Student, meant to clarify the intent and to remove disparities in the handling of nondegree conditional and nondegree regular students.

Discussion and Rationale

In January 2006, the Faculty Senate approved changes to policy 14-10 to define limits to enrollment for students who start their enrollment at the University as nondegree regular students. The revisions introduced at that time created some inconsistencies that were referred back to the Committee on Undergraduate Education for clarification, specifically:

1. the policy identified conditions under which any nondegree student could be dropped for poor academic performance, but failed to provide a provision to delay the drop for nondegree regular students who had previously been in degree status. This was inconsistent with provisions for nondegree conditional students and nondegree regular students who had never been enrolled in degree status.
2. the policy did not place a limit on how long a student could continue to take courses in nondegree regular status as long as s/he did not exceed 18 deficiency points. This was inconsistent with provisions for nondegree conditional students, who were limited to a maximum of 40 credits in nondegree status unless the student had earned more than a 2.0 average in the most recent semester.

Therefore, we present the following recommendations for revision to Policy 14-10.

Present Version

14-10 Limitations to Enrollment as a Nondegree Student

1. A student classified as nondegree conditional is permitted to take a maximum of 40 credits in this status. If the student has not reduced his or her grade-point deficiency sufficiently to qualify for reinstatement and re-enrollment to a degree program (as defined by Section 54-82) by the completion of these 40 credits, the student can then no longer enroll in credit courses. However, if the student has earned more than a 2.00 average in the most recent semester, this action does not apply.
2. A student in degree candidacy status who has changed to nondegree regular status may continue to take courses for credit (see Section 14-00). A former degree candidate who has accumulated 40 or more credits as a nondegree regular student and has a grade-point deficiency of 18 or more shall then no longer be allowed to enroll in credit courses.

3. A student classified as nondegree regular who has never been enrolled in degree status at Penn State is permitted to complete a maximum of 40 credits in this status. At this point, the student must be admitted to degree status to continue taking classes at Penn State. If the student is not qualified for degree status at this point, the student can no longer enroll in credit courses. As a result of this action, the student is dropped from the University and re-entry can only be considered under the academic renewal policy (See Senate Policy 58-60). However, if the student has earned more than a 2.00 average in the most recent semester, this action does not apply. Once the cumulative GPA is 2.00, the student must be admitted to degree status to continue taking courses at Penn State.

Proposed Version

14-10 Limitations to Enrollment as a Nondegree Student

1. **A student in nondegree status (regular or conditional) may remain in that status for a maximum of 40 credits, at which time the student must be accepted into a degree program to continue taking credit courses at Penn State. If a student is not eligible for a degree program at that time, the student can no longer take credit courses at Penn State. This action is deferred, however, as long as the student continues to earn more than a 2.00 semester grade point average. In this situation, the student must enter a degree program immediately upon reaching eligibility.**
2. **Nondegree conditional or regular students who have reached the 40-credit limit and are not eligible for a degree program can only re-enter the University through the academic renewal process (as defined by Section 58-60).**
3. **Nondegree regular students who have reached the 40-credit limit, are in good academic standing (defined as at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average), and do not intend to earn a degree may self-identify and continue taking credit courses at Penn State as an “enrichment course taker.”**

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