SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Revisions to Senate Policy 42-50
(Credit by Examination)

(Legislative)

Implementation: Upon approval by the Senate and development of procedures

Introduction and Rationale:
Current Faculty Senate policy allows departments to offer, but does not mandate that they do so, Credit by Examination (or CRX), as outlined in Policy 42-50. Students may request CRX through appropriate procedures (AAPPM Procedure E-2), but only if they have not already received a quality grade (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, F) for the course or for courses for which credit has already been received in other ways (under Policies 42-80 and 42-90, for example.)

The Undergraduate Education committee was notified of a case where a student remained in scheduled status for an entire semester, and after the end of the semester, requested Credit by Examination for one or more of the courses in which the student had been scheduled, but for which they had not paid their semester bill. Under current policy/practice if a student is in scheduled status at the end of the semester, they may, in some cases, be able to pay their semester tuition bill, but if so they are not allowed to choose which courses in which to enroll; they must register for (and pay for) all courses in which they were scheduled, an ‘all or nothing’ rule. In the case cited above, the actions of the student might be construed as an attempt to avoid this requirement, and the Undergraduate Education committee was asked to review the policy for this reason.

After an extended discussion, the committee proposes the changes to Senate Policy 42-50 outlined below, to eliminate the possibility of students requesting Credit by Examination in such circumstances. The committee also discussed, at length, possible changes to said policy involving students who have not received a quality grade in a course, but who have late dropped a class (therefore receiving a WN grade on their transcript). After an extensive discussion, the committee decided against including a similar restriction against CRX requests for students for courses in which a WN grade was awarded.

Revised Policy:

42-50 Credit by Examination (CRX)
In some circumstances credits may be earned through successful completion of comprehensive examinations made available by the Penn State academic units that offer particular courses. When such an examination serves as a substitute for completing all the usual requirements of a Penn State course, the credits received are described as “Credit by Examination” and are accepted as fulfilling degree requirements. A grade of “C” or higher must be earned in the examination for such credit to be awarded and to appear on the student’s transcript. Credit by
Examination shall not be granted for any course previously completed for which a quality letter grade has been assigned, or for credit awarded under Senate Policies 42-80 or 42-90, or for credit earned through the College Entrance Examination Board’s Advanced Placement Program. **Credit by Examination shall not be available for any course for which a student was in scheduled status for that class after the late drop date of the course.**

Students may initiate a request for Credit by Examination for a course, although the academic department or program offering the course determines whether it will make Credit by Examination available.

Credit by Examination does not result in a quality grade (A, A-, etc.) and is not included in the calculation of the student’s grade point average. Any credits earned in this manner will appear on the student’s transcript with the notation CRX and without a reported grade, similar to the way that credits appear if acquired through means such as transfer from other institutions (Senate Policy 42-80), Advanced Placement credit (Senate Policy 42-92), or Credit by Portfolio credits (Senate Policy 42-97). As with Policy 42-97, a fee may be assessed to cover the costs of the procedure (see also E-2: Credit by Examination [http://www.psu.edu/oue/aappm/](http://www.psu.edu/oue/aappm/))

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