



Indiana University School
of Liberal Arts at IUPUI

**Academic Standards
& Policies Committee**

Memo

TO: The Faculty of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI
FROM: The Academic Standards & Policies Committee
DATE: November 18, 2005
SUBJECT: **Proposed Change in the SLA Policy on Elective Credit**

Academic Standards & Policies Committee

Cavanaugh Hall
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Current Chair: Herbert Brant
hbrant@iupui.edu
<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/>

Introduction:

The Academic Standards and Policies Committee recommends that the School of Liberal Arts' policy on electives be changed in order to increase flexibility for the large number of transfer students we admit each year, and further, to eliminate the need for the constant review and updating of the list of "approved courses" from outside of the school. Specifically, **we recommend that the number of hours that may be accepted from any other school on campus or accredited university be expanded from the current 9 (nine) hours to 15 (fifteen) hours. We further propose that the remaining credit hours be restricted to coursework taken in the School of Liberal Arts, The School of Science, or equivalent transfer credits.** Currently, we specify that the remaining hours must come from Liberal Arts, Science, Herron, Journalism, or the "list of courses approved by the faculty of the School of Liberal Arts."

Current Policy on Electives:

"Candidates for a degree in the School of Liberal Arts must complete their general-education requirements and the requirements of their major department. Of the remaining credit hours, known as electives, up to 9 credit hours of course work may be elected from any degree-granting university. The remaining electives must come from courses within the School of Liberal Arts, the Herron School of Art, the School of Journalism, the School of Science, or from a list of courses approved by the faculty of the School of Liberal Arts.

If students wish to use courses that do not appear on the list, they must petition the Academic Affairs Committee before taking the course. A current list of approved elective courses is available in Cavanaugh Hall 401."



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Proposed Policy on Electives:

“Candidates for a degree in the School of Liberal Arts must complete their general-education requirements and the requirements of their major department. Of the remaining credit hours, known as electives, up to **15** credit hours of course work may be elected from any **IUPUI school or accredited** degree-granting university. The remaining electives must come from courses within **the School of Liberal Arts, the School of Science, or transfer credit from equivalent courses.**

Students may petition the Academic Affairs Committee of the School of Liberal Arts for exceptions to this policy.”

Rationale:

Our present policy restricts “free electives” to nine hours requiring that the remainder come from certain approved schools (Liberal Arts, Science, Herron, Journalism) while excluding other schools (Business, Engineering, Informatics, Music, SPEA). This policy has proven to be restrictive to the 60% of our students who bring 12 or more hours of transfer credit with them. Furthermore, it is difficult to explain and implement the “approved list” of courses outside the approved schools (the list was last updated back in 1999). The proposed change would create additional flexibility for our transfer students by increasing unrestricted electives to fifteen hours, and it would more clearly specify that the remaining hours (usually between 8 and 15) must come from Liberal Arts or Science (or equivalent coursework from other institutions).

Anticipated Credit Hour Impact:

The proposed policy may increase the number of non-Liberal Arts credit hours that a student applies toward the degree. However, the committee believes that this is likely to be offset by our ability to attract students who might otherwise pursue a degree in General Studies, or fail to persist to graduation due to the extra coursework required under the old system.

Proposed Effective Date:

We propose that the change be effective beginning in Fall 2006.