



TO: SUNY Cortland Faculty

FROM: Dr. Chris Widdall
Chair, Educational Policy Committee

DATE: May 15, 2017

RE: Minimum Grade on Coursework and Transfer Credit

At the request of the Associate Director for Transfer Credit and Degree Completion in Advisement and Transition, Carol Costell Corbin, and Registrar Advisory Group, the EPC has reviewed the memorandum: Minimum Grade on Coursework and Transfer Credit.

Feedback from the vetting document demonstrated a majority of approval in making this clarity with our current transfer credit policies. As noted in the Rationale section attached, this is not a change to policy, but rather an effort to improve clarity of the current policy. The EPC presents this recommendation for consideration.

NOTE: Faculty Senate Referendum occurred during discussion and the strikeout and words in blue were approved. 4/18/2017

Recommendation:

1) College Catalog - Academic Policies > Transfer Credit Policies and Evaluation

Course Work from Other Colleges or Universities

All credit hours accepted for transfer must have been earned at institutions granted regional accreditation by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), such as the Middle States Association, Southern Association, North Central Association, New England Association, Northwest Association or Western Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

Credit is allowed only for those courses in which a grade of C- or better has been earned. Students who at the time of first admission to SUNY Cortland have an associate of arts (A.A.), associate of science (A.S.) or any bachelor's degree will be granted credit for D grades earned in courses completed prior to matriculation at SUNY Cortland. ~~Accepted transfer credit will meet~~ **be counted as meeting the necessary minimum grade for Cortland courses or the required pre-requisite course.**

2). College Handbook

410.10 ACADEMIC CREDIT FROM OTHER COLLEGES

A. Advanced Standing

Only course work satisfactorily completed at regionally accredited collegiate institutions will be accepted. Usually credit is allowed only for those courses in which a grade of “C-” or better has been earned. However, credit may be granted for “D” grades if the student has received an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.) or any bachelor’s degree at the time of first admission to SUNY Cortland. **Accepted transfer credit will ~~meet~~ be counted as meeting the necessary minimum grade for Cortland courses or the required pre-requisite course.**

Rationale for clarity to policy:

As departments develop curriculum and courses that require a specific minimum Cortland grade for successful completion (or a minimum grade on a prerequisite), we as a College need to ensure the mobility and degree progress of our transfer students.

SUNY Cortland transfer credit policies allow the transfer of credits, but not grades. All transfer coursework consistently is awarded a grade of “T” and not calculated into a student’s Cortland GPA. The grade of “T” shows completion of a course requirement. This proposal suggests simple addition of language to our current policy indicating that accepted and posted transfer credit will satisfy course completion, including where a minimum grade is required for the course or prerequisite.

Cortland enrolls transfer students from both 2- and 4-year SUNY colleges, private colleges, and out-of-state colleges, and students’ experiences vary greatly. Assessing transfer students’ preparedness to advance into certain courses at Cortland should occur through advisement and not be dependent solely on transfer grades earned. A fair and consistent application of minimum grades on courses and prerequisites for all transfer students is to establish a campus wide policy that reinforces our current policies on transferability of coursework.

This item was reviewed with the Registrar Advisory Group, which supports the change.