

Date: 23 September 2011

Submitted by: Dr. Randy Pembroke, ext. 1649

SUBJECT: *Acceptance of Technical Certificate Credit*

Description: Expands the acceptance of technical certificate credit from 45 to 48 hours for students completing a Higher Learning Commission-accredited technical certificate program.

Proposed Addition to University Catalog – Transfer Student Section (currently pg. 20 in 2011-2012 University Catalog):

Transfer students who have completed a technical certificate from 16 to 60 hours approved by the Kansas Board of Regents from a college accredited by the Higher Learning Commission may transfer up to 48 credit hours of technical certificate course credit to Washburn University. Courses completed as a component of an earned Associate's degree beyond the technical program certificate requirements will be evaluated by the appropriate department at Washburn University and, based on that evaluation, may transfer to partially fulfill the university or general education requirements for Washburn programs. Academic units may develop specific policies limiting the number of technical certificate credit hours which can be applied to a particular degree.

Rationale: Now that many of the technical schools in Kansas have merged with HLC-accredited community colleges and universities, it has become increasingly difficult to differentiate technical certificate coursework completed as part of an associate degree. All technical certificate courses completed at Kansas institutions of higher learning which have merged with state technical schools are now reported on that college's transcript and are included in the cumulative grade point average earned by the student while attending that institution. Currently, students who complete an Associate degree in conjunction with their technical certificate are allowed to transfer up to 45 credit hours of technical credit. However, the Kansas Technical Education Authority has determined that 48 credit hours is the standard for most technical certificates. In addition, students at Washburn Institute of Technology are limited in the number of technical credit hours transferred because Tech partners with Washburn University to provide associate degrees instead of awarding them through Washburn Tech. In essence, this policy is encouraging Washburn Tech students to transfer to a community college to complete an associate degree before transferring to Washburn University so they can apply

more technical credit hours to a baccalaureate degree. We are, therefore, recommending that Washburn adopt the proposed policy regarding the transfer of technical credit.

Except with specific articulated programs, this technical certificate coursework will typically be used by the transfer students as elective credits; however, this policy allows for academic units to limit the number of technical hours which can be applied to a particular degree. Due to the potential impact on the cumulative GPA, an ad hoc task force will be convened by the VPAA upon approval of this transfer policy to review the existing policy regarding the criteria for the awarding of university latin honors. This task force will be directed to recommend changes to the current policy through the curricular governance process.

Financial Implications: *Potentially fewer credit hours completed at Washburn University—anticipate this reduction in tuition dollars would be offset by an increase in the number of technical certificate students transferring to Washburn.*

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2012.

Request for Action: *Approval by Academic Affairs Committee*

Approved by: *Academic Affairs Committee: October 10, 2011*

Faculty Senate on date

General Faculty on date

Attachments Yes No

NO