

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008

Members: Fran Bender, Chair; Tim, Gaudin, Matthew Guy, Barbara Norwood, Sean Richards, Joanie Sompayrac, Felicia Sturzer, Terry Walters, Steve White, and Tyler Forrest, student representative. Ex-officio: Phil Oldham and Linda Orth

Meeting Dates: September 24, 2007; October 29, 2007; November 26, 2007, February 1, 2008; February 19, 2007; February 22, 2008; March 28, 2008; April 19, 2008

During this academic year, the work of the Academic Standards Committee has centered on the following issues:

- Latin honors

The Academic Standards Committee recommended the following to the Faculty Senate:

1. To be eligible for Latin honors at UTC, students must have a minimum of 60 hours at UTC.
2. The University grants graduation honors to students with distinguished academic records. The graduation honors are:

cum laude granted when the student's UTC GPA at the end of the final semester is 3.5.

magna cum laude granted when the student's UTC GPA at the end of the final semester is 3.7.

summa cum laude granted when the student's UTC GPA at the end of the final semester is 3.9 or higher.

All other wording pertaining to honors in the catalog remains the same. The motion was approved by the Faculty Senate.

- Catalog Statement on developmental reading course

The Academic Standards Committee has spent many hours discussing the reading requirement currently in the UTC catalog. The catalog requirement has not been enforced for several years, so the Registrar suggested that the committee consider removing it from the catalog. The committee voted to do so. When the committee chair could not write a rationale to the Senate except to say that the requirement had not been enforced, she asked that the committee reconsider that motion. At the committee's request, Valerie Rutledge, TPA department chair, reported that no one has been forced to

take the course in a long time. Every year, there are fewer than 10 students who are officially required to take the course. However, there are a number of problems associated with trying to make the students take the course. For example, no staff members are in place to teach the course, the course is not assigned to a specific department, and there is not enough of a demand to justify offering the course. Also, there is no one to really enforce the issue. It is not an English or an Education course, Rutledge said. The motion was rescinded before it reached the Senate. The committee realized that the rationale to remove the requirement from the catalog did not address the reading issue. Later a subcommittee reported that all public four-year institutions in Tennessee as well as several out-of-state public institutions similar to UTC offer developmental reading courses. This year's committee will send to next year's committee the remaining work to be accomplished on this issue.

- Majoring and minoring in the same department

The Registrar requested Academic Standards review the catalog language regarding students' ability to major and minor within the same discipline. A number of majors (disciplines) have concentrations that cover a wide spectrum of the discipline. An example would be the Health and Human Performance major. Students in the Exercise Science or Movement Science concentrations could very likely want to minor in Food and Nutrition. Current catalog language prevents students in this discipline from this type of major and minor. After careful review of the catalog language and exceptions already noted in the Catalog, the Committee determined that any exceptions should come forward as Curriculum Proposals from the individual academic departments.

- Report on Admissions for Fall 2008

The Academic Standards Committee heard a positive report from Yancy Freeman, Director of Admissions, regarding admissions for the Fall 2008 academic year. Comparisons of Week 22 in 2007 and 2008 show a higher composite ACT and higher high school GPAs for 2008 students. Freeman suggests that the admissions standards remain the same for at least two years so that his office can track students using these new criteria, especially the holistic evaluations

Other issues presented themselves to the Standards Committee this year, but these are the major highlights.