I. Academics

Advisement

Undergraduate

The University is eager to assist students in planning their academic programs. As a result, students are assigned advisors to assist them in their course and major selection with the end result of helping students graduate from UTC. The Center for Advisement in Room 335 of the UTC Library advises freshmen and students who have not declared a major. Either faculty or professional advisors can assist freshmen. When students have accumulated 42 hours, they should declare a major and be advised in the respective academic department of the newly-declared major. The department heads of the respective departments will assign advisors to these students; however, students should contact the department heads to find out the advisor’s name. Students can also check their MyMocsNet accounts to find their advisor's name. Before students can register, they must contact an advisor to discuss course options as well as personal and academic goals. Advisors are the only persons who move advising holds for registration. Students should meet with their advisors at least once a semester until they graduate.

Graduate

The Graduate School Office coordinates the admission of students to graduate study at UTC. The Dean of the Graduate School and the Graduate School liaisons are the general advisors for graduate students in procedural matters. In matters relating to the academic program and particular courses, each student is counseled by a member of the faculty of his/her major department or school. In programs with related area(s) of study, a representative of the respective department or school should also be consulted. Non-degree seeking students are advised in the graduate school. The academic deans, division directors, department heads, and graduate coordinators serve as resource people for information about graduate school possibilities.

Honor System

Introduction

Honor Code Pledge: I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any test or assignment. I understand that plagiarism constitutes a serious instance of unauthorized aid. I further pledge that I will exert every effort to ensure that the Honor Code is upheld by others and that I will actively support the establishment and continuance of a campus-wide climate of honor and integrity.

The Honor System is designed to foster a campus-wide climate of honesty and integrity in order to ensure that students derive the maximum possible benefit from their work at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The student becomes subject to the rules and regulations of the Honor Code upon registration. Each student is obligated to exert every effort to ensure that the Honor Code is upheld by himself/herself and others.

The Honor System is administered by the Honor Court, a committee consisting of eight students and four faculty members. The procedures which govern the court’s work are described below. Any student accused of violating the Honor Code has a right to a hearing either before the Honor Court or in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act.

Although the Honor Code applies only to student work, the principles which it embodies, especially the principle of giving proper credit for another’s ideas, are binding upon all members of the academic community. The Honor System is designed to foster these principles and to develop in students rigorous standards of personal integrity by placing on students the responsibility for academic honesty. When it functions effectively, the Honor System creates a vastly more favorable climate for learning than does the presumption that students will be honest only when no opportunity is afforded them for dishonesty. In order to function effectively, however, the Honor System must have widespread support among students seriously committed to the ideals upon which it is based.

A. Purpose

The Honor Code is a means by which students can maintain their own integrity and also be loyal to the community which has admitted them to membership. Any person duly registered for any course is a student at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and acquires the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this community. The Honor Code of the University is based upon the assumption that the student recognizes the fundamental importance of honesty in all dealings within this community. The very nature of education makes it a cooperative enterprise between student and teacher and between student and student. Any act of dishonesty violates and weakens this relationship and lessens the value of the education the student is pursuing.

B. Jurisdiction

1. All students become subject to the rules and regulations of the Honor Code upon registration at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

2. The Honor Code is violated by various types of misrepresentation or acts of dishonesty which bear on the academic evaluation of a student. The following are a few examples (not all inclusive) of violations of the Honor Code:
   a. Failure to adhere to Honor Code Pledge.
   b. Bringing unauthorized material into examination area.
   c. Making use of unauthorized assistance during an examination or in preparing a graded assignment.
   d. Incorporating words or ideas of another author in a research paper without giving proper credit to their source. (Please see the appendix for a detailed statement on plagiarism.)
   e. Making unacknowledged use of another's computer program.
   f. Cases involving aggravating circumstances (e.g., selling answer keys, tests or papers) will be considered more serious violations.
   g. Assisting in any act of dishonesty including, but not limited to, the above examples.
   h. If an offense includes both an academic aspect (an Honor Code violation, e.g., cheating) and a social conduct violation (which is under the jurisdiction of the disciplinary dean and the Student Council Board, e.g., unauthorized entry), it should result in two separate hearings and the possibility of two separate penalties.

C. Right to a Hearing

Any student accused of violating the Honor Code is guaranteed the right to a hearing either before the Honor Court or in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act (Public Acts 1974, Chapter 725, Tennessee Code Annotated 4-507 et seq.) The procedures of the Honor Court are described below. The Uniform Administrative Procedures Act provides the student the right to a hearing before an individual or committee selected by the Chancellor. This individual or committee submits to the chancellor a recommendation for the disposition of the case. The responsibility for the final decision rests with the Chancellor. At either type of hearing, the student has the right to confront his or her accuser and cross-examine witnesses.

D. Duties and Powers of the Honor Court

The Honor Court shall perform the following:

1. Decide the question of guilt or innocence on suspected Honor Code violations.
2. Recommend appropriate disciplinary action.
3. Function as a study committee continually evaluating the nature and administration of the Honor Code.
4. Serve as an advisory committee reporting to the Chancellor of the University, Faculty Council, and SGA.

E. Composition of the Honor Court

The composition of the Honor Court shall consist of 12 student members (three appointed by the Faculty Council; three appointed by the president of the SGA, who shall assume office upon approval of the Senate; three appointed by the Office of Student Development; three appointed by the Senate...
Honor Court Penalties

1. Both students and faculty may report suspected violations of the Honor Code to the chair of the Honor Court. The chair will provide a form on which these reports may be made. A student whose grade has been reduced because of a suspected violation of the Honor Code may also appeal to the Court. Upon receiving the report or appeal, the chair will either schedule a hearing before the Honor Court or, at the discretion of the accused party, refer the case to the Chancellor for disposition in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. An Honor Court hearing will not be held, however, if the necessary witnesses, either students or faculty, are unwilling to appear.

2. An Honor Court hearing requires a quorum of six voting members. One of the members of the Court will serve as secretary and record minutes for the hearing. At the discretion of the chair of the Honor Court, a recording of the hearing may be made. A copy of this record will be made available to the accused party upon payment of a reasonable fee for transcription. No record is kept of the deliberation of the Honor Court which follows the hearing, except for a record of any votes that may be taken.

3. Hearings of the Honor Court are closed to all except witnesses, the accused, the person bringing the accusation, any legal representatives and members of the Court.

4. Members of the Honor Court who are relatives or close personal acquaintances of the accused will excuse themselves from the hearing.

5. At the beginning of the hearing, the chair will read the report of the suspected violation. The accused party has the right to state his or her position and to present a written statement. The accused party, the accuser, and the Court may call and question witnesses. All persons except members of the Honor Court will be dismissed before the Court begins its deliberation. A verdict of guilty and a recommended penalty must be supported by a majority of the members of the Court who are present and voting. The accused party will be asked to return at the conclusion of the deliberation for the announcement of the decision of the Court. If the accused is found to have violated the Honor Code, he/she will be advised of the right of appeal to the Chancellor.

6. Both the accused party and the party reporting the suspected violation will be notified in writing by the chair of the Honor Court of the decision of the Court. Written notification will also be sent to the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for Student Development.

Failure to Appear

1. If, at the formal hearing of the case, the student defendant or his/her representative fails either to appear or to provide the hearing officer with adequate prior notice of reasonable excuse for not appearing, the case will be disposed of in a manner that is deemed just.

2. If, at a formal hearing of a student defendant's case, the plaintiff either fails to appear or provide adequate prior notice of a reasonable excuse for not appearing, the case shall be dismissed for failure to prosecute, upon proper motion by the student defendant.

Appendix

Plagiarism

To plagiarize means to take someone else's words and/or ideas (or patterns of ideas) and to present them to the reader as if they are yours. Plagiarism, then, is an act of stealing. It is also an unwise act because it does not help you learn, and it is a dangerous act because you can be severely punished for it.

You should be on guard against plagiarism at any time when writing a paper to be turned in. In some papers you will write, you will be assigned to use only your own ideas and will probably not have to worry about plagiarism. At any time, however, that you read anything in preparation for a paper or consciously recall anything that you have read or heard, you must be prepared to provide documentation.

Generally, when you use someone else's ideas and/or words, you will either quote that person directly or you will paraphrase or summarize that person's words. You must let the reader know which you are doing.

1. If you quote the source directly, you must
   a. put quotation marks before and after that person's words;
   b. let the reader know the source by (1) putting a footnote number at the end of the quotation, or (2) putting at least the source's name in parentheses after the quotation marks.

2. If you paraphrase (a paraphrase is about the same length as the original, but in different words) or if you summarize (a summary is a severely shortened version of the original), you must
   a. introduce the source in some manner at the beginning of the passage being paraphrased (or summarized) so that a reader can tell where your idea stops and the other person's begins;
   b. state the ideas taken from the source in your own words and your own arrangement. It is possible to plagiarize sentence patterns as well as exact words. A handy rule: if, in a paraphrase or summary, you use a stretch of more than three words in their exact order from a source, you should put those words into quotation marks;
   c. provide an exact source citation for the ideas paraphrased or summarized. This may be done either by footnote number at the
I. Academics

end of the passages or by a parenthetical reference to the work and page(s). This citation provides credit to the author being used and allows the reader access to the material for further study.

3. You must also provide a footnote for any chart, graph, figure, table, summary, or other data taken directly from another source or any information derived from such materials.

When you are assigned a research paper or project, check with your instructor to determine what particular footnote style you should follow. If, at any time, you have questions or doubts as to whether or not you are plagiarizing, check with your instructor before you complete your paper.

Statement from Faculty Handbook

Faculty have a general responsibility to make students aware that the Honor Code governs all their academic work at UTC. Faculty should stress that, although the Honor Code applies only to student work, the principles which it embodies, especially the principle of giving proper credit for another's ideas, are binding upon all members of the academic community. The Honor System at UTC places responsibility for maintaining academic honesty on the student, but faculty are free to supervise examinations and other graded work in whatever way they deem appropriate.

Either through their own observation or through reports from students, faculty members may confront suspected violations of the Honor Code. The faculty member's handling of an incident of this sort should be guided by the following considerations:

a. The faculty member will need to make a preliminary judgement about the seriousness of the incident. Specifically, he or she will need to judge whether it is a possible violation of the Honor Code or whether it is the result of a student's failure to master certain academic skills, especially writing skills. If the incident appears to be a violation of the Honor Code, the faculty member must then decide whether the seriousness of the incident and the evidence are sufficient to justify a formal report to the Honor Court. In reaching both of these decisions, faculty members are strongly encouraged to consult with the chair of the Honor Court.

b. A student who is accused of or penalized for academic dishonesty has a right to a hearing before an individual or committee selected by the Chancellor. This right is provided by a State law, the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. A student may choose as an alternative a hearing before the Honor Court. If a faculty member chooses not to report an instance of apparent academic dishonesty to the Honor Court, the faculty member should not penalize the students involved without their knowledge or consent.

c. If a hearing of either type is held, a faculty member may be asked to attend as a witness. The faculty member has the obligation, when called upon, to present a clear and impartial account of the incident in question and to present to the hearing body any relevant evidence, especially written evidence, at the faculty member's disposal. The faculty member's role in such a hearing is not that of a prosecutor.

d. Faculty members are sometimes concerned about legal liability they may incur as a result of handling cases of academic dishonesty. Should a student choose to be represented by legal counsel at an Honor Court or APA hearing, an attorney from the UT Office of the General Counsel will be present to represent the interests of the faculty member. Should a court case result from an instance of suspected academic dishonesty, a University attorney will be available to defend a faculty member acting within the scope of his or her duties.

e. Faculty members are strongly encouraged to report suspected violations of the Honor Code to the Honor Court. The Honor Court is empowered to impose penalties more severe than those which an individual faculty member can impose. Only through the process of reporting suspected violations will it be possible to identify and deal with students whose academic work is habitually dishonest. There are, however, cases of dishonesty which are so ambiguous that they are not readily resolved through process of a formal hearing.

Faculty may choose to handle such cases through a conference with the parties involved as long as students are informed of their right to a hearing. Again, the chair of the Honor Court is available to consult with faculty about any instance of suspected academic dishonesty.

Student Records

Registration

Any student who registers will be obligated for fees. To avoid being canceled, a student must pay fees, or, if no fees are owed, submit the confirmation of attendance by the published cancellation deadline. This applies to all students regardless of source of funds, including those whose fees are billed, deferred, waived, or paid with personal funds including financial aid. Students who fail to pay fees or confirm attendance will be canceled.

Withdrawals

Students who wish to drop all courses should drop their courses online. Students may receive the grade of F in courses from which they fail to withdraw officially. Students are responsible for fees based upon the refund schedule published by the Bursar's Office.

Changes in Registration

Students may add classes or change sections through the first week of a semester or a comparable period in a summer session. Students must register online.

Students may drop a course through the first two weeks of a semester or a comparable period in the summer session without receiving a grade if they follow the required procedures. The same procedures should be used to drop a class after the second week except that a grade of W will be recorded. Except in unusual circumstances, no withdrawals or course drops are permitted after the official drop date. All registrations and drops are processed by the student online. Any student who stops attending class without formally withdrawing or dropping the course involved will be given an F for the semester grade.

The registration limit for any semester is 20 hours for undergraduates. Schedules in excess of this limit are not permitted unless the student has obtained advance approval of the Petitions Committee. Students requesting approval of the Petitions Committee to exceed the registration limit for a given semester must submit the petition to the Records Office (125 University Center) one week prior to the first day of class.

Full-time graduate students may enroll for a maximum of 15 semester hours in any semester (nine hours are considered a full-time class load). Registration for more than 15 graduate hours during any semester is not permissible without prior approval of the Dean of The Graduate School. Some programs have exemptions and can register for more than 15 hours.

Majors

In order to assign students to the proper departments for advising, the Records Office needs accurate information on the majors that students are pursuing. Undergraduate students are responsible for updating their majors and minors in the Records Office. Graduate students should contact the Graduate School for information on changing majors.

Records

The Records Office maintains an academic record on any student who has ever attended UTC. This record currently includes the student's name, UTC-ID, birthday, and credits transferred from other colleges. It includes all courses which a student has taken at UTC with credit hours, grades, and cumulative grade point average. Academic suspension or dismissal is recorded, as well as academic probation. The office also maintains the student admission file which includes high school and college transcripts, admission application, admission test scores, correspondence concerning admission to UTC, and various responses to student inquiries. Graduate admission files are maintained in The Graduate School Office.

A student's record is regarded as confidential and release of the record or of information contained therein is governed by regulations of the federal law on "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act." Only directory information, such as a student's name, address, telephone listing, major fields of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, UTC e-mail, college, classifica-
tion, weight and height of athletic team members, enrollment status, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student may be released by the institution without consent of the student unless the student has asked UTC to withhold such information. The law also provides for the release of information to University personnel who demonstrate a legitimate educational interest, other institutions engaged in research (provided information is not revealed to any other parties), and certain federal and state government officials.

A student may inspect and review their own education record and is entitled to challenge the content of the record. However, the student may be denied access to a parent’s financial statement and to confidential letters and statements of recommendation which were placed in the University’s records prior to January 1, 1975.

A more thorough examination of records maintained on students and copies of records may be obtained from the Records Office or The Graduate School Office. The Registrar will further explain and clarify the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act to students, parents, or interested parties upon request. See section in this publication entitled access to student records.

Transcripts
Transcripts of a student’s record are released only on the student’s written authorization. No transcript(s) will be released if the University has placed a hold on the student’s record due to unpaid financial obligations. Requests are processed through the National Student Clearinghouse at https://www.utc.edu/records/transcriptordering.php and should be made in advance of the date on which the transcripts are needed.

Classification
A full-time undergraduate is one who is registered for a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit. A full-time graduate student is one who is registered for at least nine semester hours of graduate credit. For advancement from one undergraduate class to another, a student must complete the following number of hours:

- Freshman: 0-29 semester hours
- Sophomore: 30-59 semester hours
- Junior: 60-89 semester hours
- Senior: 90+ semester hours

Grades
The following grading scale is used, with the quality point indicated for each credit hour earned:

- A—4 Quality Points
- B—3 Quality Points
- C—2 Quality Points
- D—1 Quality Point
- I (incomplete)—Not Included
- S (satisfactory grade given in satisfactory/no credit courses)—Not Included
- W (withdrawn)—Not Included
- NC (no credit)—Not Included
- F (failure)—0 Quality Points
- SP (satisfactory progress; thesis only)—Not Included
- NP (no progress; thesis only)—Not Included
- IP (in progress; approved courses only)—Not Included

The grade point average is derived by dividing the total graded hours attempted into the total quality points earned (grades of S, I, and W are excluded).

Grade point averages are not rounded and no numerical value less than the stated grade point average will suffice.

An Incomplete may be given to the student whose work has been of passing quality and who, in the opinion of the faculty member, has a valid reason for not completing some requirement of the course. Removal of an Incomplete must be submitted by the instructor to the Records Office by the published date in the next semester or the Incomplete will become an F. The Incomplete grade will not be computed in the grade point average during the interim. Any student called to active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States may, with the permission of the instructor, be given an indefinite Incomplete to be made up at any time or a retroactive withdrawal may be granted. Students should contact the Registrar to avail themselves of this option.

A student may audit a course with the approval of his or her advisor and course instructor. Audit students receive no grades or credit and are under no obligation to attend classes regularly or to take examinations. If a student attends the course as much as 75 percent of the semester, the course will appear on his or her academic record with Audit noted. Only in the first week of a semester or a comparable period in a summer term may a student change an audit to credit. A student may, however, change from credit to audit in any course through the first two weeks of a semester or a comparable period in a summer term.

Course Repeat and Grade Replacement Policy
Students may repeat any UTC or transfer course.

1. Provided prerequisites are met, students may replace a total of three grades. The first three grades in one or more subjects may be replaced; the total number of replaced grades cannot exceed three. Effective Fall 2010, developmental studies courses will not be included in the grade replacement limit. Grades of S, NC, and W will not count in the allotted number of replacement grades.

2. All grades, except the three replaced grades, will be used in the grade point average computation.

3. Courses in which a grade of A was earned cannot be repeated except for "r" courses. If an A is repeated, the repeated course will be changed from credit to audit.

4. In any repeated course, excluding "r" courses, a student forfeits the first earned hours, if any. Previous grades and credit do not count; only the last grade counts.

5. For a transfer student a "course" is interpreted as any course listed separately in an individual term on the transcript, regardless of the number of such courses needed to equate to a UTC course.

6. When a student is repeating more than one course in a term and is nearing the possible limit of three replacement grades, the following order will determine replacement schedules: 4 hour Fs, 3 hour Fs, 2 hour Fs, 4 hour Ds, 3 hour Ds, 2 hour Ds, 1 hour Fs, 1 hour Ds, 4 hour Cs, 3 hour Cs, 2 hour Cs, 1 hour Cs. In the case of a tie, a grade in a course within the student’s major will be replaced first.

Graduate Students
A graduate student may repeat a course only with approval of the student’s major adviser, and all grades earned will be included in computing the grade point average.
### Continuation Standards

#### Undergraduate Students

In order to be able to continue in residence at UTC, a student must earn a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0. Academic standing is based upon the overall grade point average. Students who achieve the required overall cumulative grade point average are considered to be in good standing. Those who fail to achieve the required average will be subject to the following action:

1. Students will be placed on academic probation after failure to earn the required overall (cumulative) grade point average. A student on academic probation may enroll in courses for the subsequent semester.
2. If the student's overall GPA for the subsequent semester is 2.0 or better, the student is reclassified as in good standing. If the student's overall GPA remains below 2.0, but the student earns at least a 2.0 semester GPA, the probation status will be extended for another semester.
3. If the student's overall GPA for the subsequent semester remains below 2.0, and the semester GPA is also below 2.0, academic suspension for one semester will follow. The complete summer session is considered a period of suspension.
4. If the student has previously been suspended they will be dismissed.
5. Any student permitted to enroll despite the fact that his or her overall cumulative average is below continuation standards will be on probation. Students who are either suspended or dismissed have the right to appeal for reentry if they believe that extenuating circumstances were responsible for their poor academic achievement. Students who wish to appeal for reentry to the University prior to completing the suspension or dismissal period must complete a petition form available in the Records Office. Appeals for the term in which reentry is sought must be submitted to the Records Office one week prior to the first day of classes for fall and spring semester and for any summer term.

All students who have been academically dismissed must be readmitted by the Admissions or Petitions Committee. Although readmission is not automatic, dismissed students who wish to appeal for reentry after the lapse of at least one calendar year must complete their appeal through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions on special forms available in that office. Appeals for the fall semester must be completed and received in the Admissions Office by August 1. The deadline for spring semester is December 1, and the deadline for all summer sessions is May 1. Appeals received after these deadlines will be processed for the next possible term.

Academic action is recorded on the academic record.

#### Graduate Students

A student admitted to graduate study must maintain a minimum 3.00 grade point average on all courses taken for graduate credit. In the event the student fails to meet this standard, one of the following actions will be taken:

**Probation**—A student will be placed on academic probation whenever the grade point average falls below a 3.00 on courses completed for graduate credit.

**Dismissal**—Decisions regarding continuation will be made by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Students admitted to graduate study must maintain a 3.0 overall grade point average in all courses taken for graduate credit. Graduate students will be placed on academic probation whenever their overall GPA falls below 3.0. By the end of the next two terms of enrollment (counting the entire summer session as one term), students must raise their overall GPA to a 3.0 or higher. Students will be academically dismissed if they fail to achieve this overall GPA within the two semester probationary period or if they fail to achieve a 3.0 or higher for either probationary semester.

Dismissed students may appeal to the Graduate Council for readmission. Readmission forms are available in the Graduate School, 103 Race Hall. Upon readmission, students may resume graduate study on probation with the same continuation standards. Students whose degree program continuation standards exceed that of the Graduate School may be dismissed from their program of study.

### Degree Requirements

The catalog in effect at the student’s time of entry or re-entry determines the requirements for the degree. Catalogs are valid for 6 years. Consequently students must complete requirements in accordance with a valid catalog. Students may select an earlier valid catalog year provided they were enrolled that catalog year.

Transfer students must fulfill the degree requirements published in the catalog in effect at the time of entry to UTC, but may elect to use the catalog in effect at the time of their first entry into college or first entry to UTC as long as it is a valid catalog. Transfer students must complete the degree requirements in accordance with a valid catalog.

Graduate students will follow the catalog in effect at the time of admission to candidacy. Unless otherwise specified, any changes made in a master's program go into effect following publication of the catalog. It is possible for any catalog requirement to become void before it becomes effective.

A student may not combine the regulations of different catalogs. If the student wishes to graduate under a catalog other than the one in effect at the time of his entrance, he or she should notify the Records Office.

A student seeking recommendation of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for initial teacher licensure must satisfy the current UTC approved program requirements on file with the Tennessee Department of Education at the time of application for licensure. When the Tennessee Department of Education makes changes in licensure requirements, all education majors who graduate after the announced date of enforcement and all teacher licensure applicants must meet the new requirements, regardless of the program outlined in the catalog that they were initially using.

The minimum undergraduate degree requirement is the completion of 120 semester hours of credit. Some degree programs require more than this minimum. To earn a degree a student must satisfy not only the minimum number of hours, the specific course requirements in his or her curriculum, a minimum of 39 hours of 3000 and 4000 level courses, but also the following qualitative requirements:

1. A minimum 2.00 overall cumulative GPA.
2. A minimum 2.00 average on all hours attempted in most major disciplines. The courses computed in this average are determined by each department. Some majors require a 2.50 average in the discipline.

The last 24 hours toward an undergraduate degree must be completed in residence at UTC. A student who has attended a junior college at any time in an academic career must complete a minimum of 60 hours at a senior college.

Several departments and schools have limitations on the hours within those departments. Students not seeking a major in business administration may only complete a maximum of 30 hours in the College of Business Administration. Students admitted to the University may earn institutional credit for college level learning gained outside the traditional classroom environment. Prior Learning Assessment credit (PLA) may include competency examinations, employer training programs, military service, and other learning experiences. PLA credit is only awarded for college level learning.

A student may earn up to 60 total semester hours of PLA credit, including up to 24 semester hours of portfolio credit. PLA credit may apply to general education requirements, and may count toward major and minor requirements. PLA credit awarded by UTC may be included in the last 24 hours of coursework at UTC.

Examples of the types of PLA credit that UTC accepts are: Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), International Baccalaureate Credit (IB), Credit by Special Examination (Challenge Exam), Military Service Credit, Portfolio Assessment Credit, and Correspondence and Extension Credit. Other types of PLA may be accepted.

All PLA credit is entered on the academic record as Satisfactory Credit (S). The Undergraduate Admissions Office must receive official test score.
reports. Contact the appropriate academic department for information regarding Credit by Special Exam.

Students seeking Portfolio Assessment Credit must contact their major department to determine whether the prior learning is college level. The student may then contact the Integrated Studies program for assistance with the approval process http://www.utc.edu/integrated-studies/prior-learning-assessment.php. Completion of INTS 3010 and submission of a portfolio may be required.

All degree candidates must file an application for degree by the published deadline. Diplomas will not be ordered for those who do not file an application, and degrees will not be conferred. Academic regalia is worn at commencement. Caps/gowns may be ordered through the UTC Bookstore.

Undergraduate Residency Requirements

In addition to degree requirements, students must meet the following residency requirements:

* At least 25 percent of the minimum credit semester hours required for the degree must be earned under the direction of UTC faculty.
* The last 24 semester hours must be completed at UTC. With prior approval by the department head of the student's major college, 3 hours of credit earned at other UT campuses may be counted as part of the last 24 semester hours.
* At least 39 credit hours must be taken at the 3000-4000 level.
* At least 12 credit hours must be earned at the 3000-4000 level of the UTC program or department offering the degree.
* At least 60 credit hours must be taken at senior level institutions.

Attendance Policy and Excuses

Classes

At the beginning of the semester, faculty members will state to their classes their policy on absences. It is the responsibility of the students to inform instructors when illness or participation in University activity prevents attendance. Instructors will decide whether the students may make up work missed and what effect the absences may have on the requirements of the course.

When absences are occasioned by University projects, students should check with instructors, informing them of the possibility of the out-of-town trip and the classes to be missed. If instructors wish written confirmation of the organized trip before granting the excuse, a list of classes along with the instructors' names and the dates of the trip should be submitted to the office of the appropriate academic dean. All excuse requests must be submitted at least three days before the event. This list should be signed by the faculty advisor of the organization, who certifies the accuracy of the information. The dean issues the approval and returns the list to the faculty advisor of the organization, who gives each student a copy of the approved list to show to the instructors.

Policy Statement by the Board of Trustees on Cancellation of Classes

Students who enroll at The University of Tennessee have paid fees for courses in which they are enrolled and the citizenry of the state has provided funds to support scheduled academic activities. Hence, faculty and staff members are to conduct their classes and related functions in accordance with previously established schedules. There will be no deviation from this procedure unless permission is given by appropriate administrators, in accordance with procedures established by each chancellor.

Action contrary to the preceding policy is prima facie evidence of violation of contractual commitments of faculty and staff members to The University of Tennessee. Variations from this policy will be investigated and, in the event of verified violations, appropriate action, including voiding of employment contracts, will be taken.

The University of Tennessee's Board of Trustees and administration recognizes that an extremely high percentage of the institution's faculty members are dedicated to professional ethics which compel them to fulfill their obligations in teaching, research, and service without administrative supervision. It is the belief of the Board and administration, therefore, that individual faculty members and professional organizations will insure that academic responsibilities are met by all of their colleagues without the necessity of administrative action.

Scholarship Requirements

All scholarship holders must make normal academic progress toward a degree during each semester in which they receive an award. This means that it is expected that they would pass a minimum of 12 credit hours which apply to their degree programs and maintain a 2.00 grade point average. Some special scholarships have higher grade averages as a requirement; this is specified at the time the award is made.

Make-up Examination Policy

Students are responsible for meeting all course requirements, including graded exercises which are administered in class. Along with other course requirements, policies covering make-ups for graded exercises normally should be announced at the beginning of the course. In the event of an impasse between the instructor and the student over the question of a make-up, the student may appeal to the department head, division director, or program coordinator.

Grade Appeals Procedure

It is the prerogative and responsibility of each member of the faculty to determine the final grade for each student according to criteria clearly defined and explained in the syllabus. Whenever a student feels that his or her rights and interests have been seriously jeopardized by way of unfair, arbitrary, or malicious exercise of faculty grading prerogatives and desires to appeal the grade, the following appeal procedures must be followed. (It is recognized that the following time frames are maximal, and that in cases where a failing grade prevents a student from continuing in the course, the appeals procedure can be accelerated.)

1. Conversation with the Instructor

The student who desires an appeal must seek an appointment with the faculty member who awarded the grade within five working days of the day when the final course grades were posted. The purpose of this appointment is to request clarification of the basis for the evaluation. If the student is unable to locate the faculty member personally, the request may be presented to the head of the department in which the course is offered. During these conversations, the student shall have access to all his or her exams and papers that have not previously been returned to the student for the period covered by the grade. Provision of material returned to the student is the responsibility of the student. A faculty member who chooses not to return papers to the student should keep graded exams and papers for a minimum of the next regular semester following the completion of a term. If the complaint is not resolved by way of such discussions and the student is still convinced that the grade is arbitrary or unjust, a formal appeal may be made to the Faculty Grade Appeals Committee.

2. Appeal to the Faculty Grade Appeals Committee

Within five working days of the conversation with the faculty member who awarded the grade (or the department head, if necessary, as described above), the student desiring to proceed with a formal appeal shall present in writing the reasons on which the appeal is based, together with any and all supporting documents. Such appeal shall be addressed to the Faculty Grade Appeals Committee and personally delivered to the head of the department in which the course in question is offered. Check the UTC web site or departmental office for the required form.

a. Procedure

Upon receipt of a formal appeal, the head of the department (or the dean, if the department head is the faculty member whose grade is being appealed) involved shall notify the faculty member who awarded the grade and shall immediately appoint two members of the department faculty to serve as observers at the appeals hearing and as
I. Academics

The head shall forward those names, and the written appeal, together with all relevant material and information concerning the case, to the dean of the college or school. The dean shall then meet with the student to counsel the student and discuss the appeals process. If the student wishes to continue with his or her appeal the dean, with the cooperation of the Committee chair, will call, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Faculty Grade Appeals Committee.

b. Composition

Committee Composition: At least an eight-member pool to select from for the appeal composition and a designated organizing chair who is responsible for working with the dean’s office of the grade appeal to ensure that three members are selected from the pool and available for the appeal without conflict of interest. Additionally, the chair is responsible for submitting the annual report to the senate. Appeal Composition: Three (3) faculty members selected from the pool, two (2) non-voting faculty members selected at the time of an appeal by the head of the department (or dean of the school if appropriate) in which the appealed course is offered. The chair shall be the dean of the academic unit involved. Should the dean be the course professor involved in the appeal, the provost will serve as chair. The chair shall not vote on an appeal except in case of a tie vote, and will be responsible for reporting the findings of the committee to the Office of the Provost. A quorum for this committee will consist of three voting members and the chair.

c. Responsibilities of the Committee, Department Head and Dean

i. The responsibility of the grade appeals committee is to hear undergraduate student appeals whenever a student feels that the student’s rights have been seriously jeopardized by way of unfair, arbitrary or malicious exercise of faculty grading prerogatives and desires to appeal the grade. The committee reviews the grade after a student who is appealing has followed the current published procedures for grade appeals in the Faculty Handbook.

ii. As soon as possible after the complete appeal is received in the Dean’s office, the dean shall inquire of the student and the faculty member involved whether either desires a hearing before the committee. If no hearing is requested within 5 business days, the committee shall determine the appeal and issue its ruling on the basis of the record. If either party requests a hearing within 5 business days, such a hearing shall be held within 10 working days of the request, at which time both the student and the faculty member shall be afforded the opportunity to present further evidence. Within five working days after the hearing, the committee shall, on the basis of all the material before it, determine the appeal and issue its ruling as it deems appropriate, either upholding the grade or requesting the faculty member to change it accordingly. As soon as possible after this ruling is made, the Dean (or Provost, if appropriate) shall notify the faculty member and the student about the Committee’s ruling, by email and hard copy. Either party shall have the right to appeal the committee’s decision to the Chancellor of the University.

d. Grade Appeals Committee Guidelines

If a student appeals a grade to the Grade Appeals Committee, the following guidelines will be used in the appeal process:

i. The burden of proof in the appeal lies with the student. Instructors should maintain, however, documents related to the assignment of grades for a period of at least one semester to facilitate the investigation of improperly assigned grades. If requested, instructors shall make copies of all relevant documents available to the student, following FERPA guidelines. If the student requests the hearing but fails to appear at the hearing without sufficient cause the grade appeal will be denied and cannot be refiled.

ii. Grade appeals may be warranted in the case of deviations from the syllabus. This constraint should not be interpreted to mean that instructors may not change grading criteria during the course of the semester, as long as all students in the class are notified of these changes in a timely manner. Events may necessitate such changes.

iii. Grade appeals should never be based upon a student’s individual needs or circumstances; students do not have the right to appeal a grade because of their health, anxiety, family circumstances or other such circumstances. Grades should only be based upon student performance.

iv. Instructors have a right to set standards for a course consistent with department parameters including the number and types of exams, amount of outside work required, attendance policies, class discussion requirements, exam time limits or any other grading criteria. It is the responsibility of the instructor to clearly outline these standards in the syllabus. Students may not use the issue of an instructor’s standards (e.g., “an instructor was too hard”) as the basis for a grade appeal.

v. Students may not use the grade appeal procedure as a bargaining mechanism. Grade change recommendations will be based on already completed course work.

vi. Student claims of unjust assignment of grades based upon the perception that an instructor did not like or was biased against the student must still stand the burden of objective proof. If proof can be provided that the instructor was biased or disliked a student, then the possibility of arbitrary or capricious assignment of grades may result in a successful appeal.

vii. The outcome of a grade appeal is a recommendation only. If the Grade Appeal Committee finds with the student, the instructor may request the committee to explain its decision in writing. If the instructor refuses to change the grade, a copy of the committee’s rationale shall be provided to all administrators who are part of the appeals process. The student may appeal to the Chancellor.

3. Appeal to the Chancellor

Within five working days of the decision of the Faculty Grade Appeals Committee, the student or the faculty member may present, in writing, a request for review by the Chancellor of the University. In such event, the Chancellor shall immediately request the complete record of the case from the Faculty Grade Appeals Committee and shall make a decision on the basis of the record. The Chancellor has the ultimate authority on this campus to decide whether the grade will be changed and to effect such a change. In the event that a decision of the committee against the student is upheld by the Chancellor, that decision shall be final. If the Chancellor upholds a decision of the Faculty Grade Appeals Committee against the faculty member, the faculty member shall be requested to change the grade in accordance with the committee’s ruling.
Honors & Honor Societies

Convocations
Convocations are for the entire student body, staff, and faculty members. Time and place for the convocations will be published in the Echo, the student newspaper. Honors Day is a major convocation during the academic year.

The Dean's List
To be eligible for the Dean's List, an undergraduate student must earn a 3.20 average while completing at least 6 graded hours in a semester.

Departmental Honors
Any regular student of the University who is a candidate for an undergraduate degree may apply for admission to candidacy for departmental honors provided his average in his major is 3.50 and his overall is 3.20. Application for candidacy is made in the student's junior year. For additional information, see the Honors College section in teh current catalog.

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

- **cum laude** granted when the student's institutional GPA at end of the final semester is 3.5.
- **magna cum laude** granted when the student's institutional GPA at end of the final semester is 3.7.
- **summa cum laude** granted when the student's institutional GPA at end of the final semester is 3.9 or higher.

Graduation honors will be inscribed on the diplomas. Developmental credit will not be counted in the grade point average for graduation or honors. Grade point averages are not rounded. The standards apply to all undergraduate degree candidates, regardless of the catalog under which they entered.

Alpha
The highest academic distinction for general scholastic excellence is election to the Alpha Society. At the close of the first semester of the senior year (minimum of 108 hours), a student must have a grade point average for his entire college course, including transfer work, of 3.75 or better to be considered eligible. A minimum of 30 of the total hours must have been completed at UTC with at least a 3.75 average. (There must be a grade point average of 3.75 or better on both the student's cumulative hours and the student's hours at UTC.) Generally, the faculty members of Alpha elect about eight percent of the graduating class to Alpha.

Alpha Lambda Delta & Phi Eta Sigma
These two national honor societies elect for membership those freshmen who have a 3.50 average on at least 12 graded hours in the first semester or a cumulative average of 3.50 at the end of the freshman year.

Mortar Board
Juniors may be tapped for election to Mortar Board in the second semester if they have demonstrated leadership, participated in student activities, and kept their scholarship average at a substantial level.

Golden Key
Golden Key is an honor society open to students who have achieved a grade point average of 3.30 and have successfully completed 60 hours of course work. Golden Key is open to all part- and full-time students.

Prizes and Awards
In addition to membership in honor societies, many different prizes, trophies, and awards are given to students who distinguish themselves by outstanding achievement. Some are general awards offered on a University-wide basis; others are restricted to majors in specific departments.

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**Departmental Honor Societies**
- Alpha Kappa Delta (sociology)
- Beta Alpha Psi (accounting)
- Beta Gamma Sigma (business)
- Financial Management Assoc. (finance)
- Gamma Sigma Epsilon (chemistry)
- Kappa Omicron Phi (human ecology)
- Omicron Delta Epsilon (economics)
- Pi Delta Phi (French)
- Pi Mu Epsilon (mathematics)
- Psi Chi (psychology)
- Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish)
- Sigma Pi Sigma (physics)
- Tau Beta Pi (engineering)
- Alpha Phi Sigma (criminal justice)
- Beta Beta Beta (biology)
- Delta Tau Omega (geology)
- Lambda Iota Tau (English)
- Phi Alpha Theta (history)
- Pi Gamma Mu (social sciences)
- Pi Sigma Alpha (political science)
- Scabbard and Blade (military)
- Sigma Iota Epsilon (business mgmt.)
- Sigma Theta Tau (nursing)

**UTC Library**
The UTC Library is the campus center for research, teaching, and learning. As a UTC student, you have full access to millions of scholarly resources, state-of-the art technology, incredible study spaces, and in-depth research and writing assistance from the professional librarians and staff members.

**Spaces**
- Small group study rooms are available throughout the building, reserve a room here http://www.utc.edu/library/services/rooms/.
- The Information Commons is the largest computer lab on campus, with 178 PCs and MACs, loaded with the software you need, as well as printing and scanning services.
- The Studio is an advanced multimedia production space with 24 powerful PCs and Macs for all your creative needs, as well as a recording studio, green screen room, 3D printers and scanners, and equipment you can borrow.
- Practice, record, and download your presentation in our one-touch Practice Presentation Rooms. Reserve in advance through the library website.
- Two quiet study lounges and hundreds of comfortable spaces including chairs, booths, rockers, and recliners throughout the building.
- Study all night Sunday through Thursday in the 24/5 Space. MocsCard required for after-hours entry.

**Services**
- Stop at the 1st Floor Check Out desk to reserve a room, borrow a book, a calculator, a phone charger, and even a game.
- On the 2nd floor, librarians are available at the Information Desk to help with all of your research needs. Drop by the desk or schedule a research consultation for in-depth help.
- On the 3rd floor, in addition to the Studio, visit the Writing and Communication Center to get feedback on your paper, resume, or poster.
- Throughout the year, the Library offer workshops on new technology, conducting research, citing sources to avoiding plagiarism, Word, Excel, and more.
- If the UTC Library does not have a book or article that you need, just ask and we’ll borrow it from another library for you, for free

**Collections**
- Over 150 databases covering millions of newspaper, magazine, and academic journal articles.
- Over 500,000 print books; over 200,000 ebooks.
- Over 3,000 popular films on DVD.
- Circulating equipment, including: laptops, Chromebooks, scientific calculators, camcorders, digital cameras, USB drives, phone chargers, and more.
- UTC University Archives, Rare Books, and Manuscripts.
Center for Professional Education

To meet the needs of individuals and groups seeking professional development learning experiences, the department offers a variety of professional development programs in both public and customized formats. The professional development programs carry Continuing Education Units (CEUs), and the division maintains individual transcripts and issues certificates. See http://www.utc.edu/Center-Professional-Education/.

Community Outreach and Personal Development

To extend University resources to the community, the department offers personal development programs for all ages, including Youth University, and courses in art, literature, foreign languages, recreation, money management, and many other areas. Access a current catalog of offerings at http://www.utc.edu/Center-Professional-Education/

Meeting Management

This service offers a top quality learning environment and a wide variety of program planning and implementation services.
Fifteen+ meeting rooms with seating from 10 to 450
Flexible seating arrangements
Event/conference management services
Teleconferencing and satellite downlink
Catering services to meet all your needs
Registration services
Video streaming and lecture capture services

Center for Community Career Education

The Center for Community Career Education is a nonprofit career and educational counseling and training center with the College of Health, Educational and Professional Studies. The mission statement and service areas within the Center reflect the growth in vision and scope of services from the original program founded as FACE in 1980.

Mission: The Center is dedicated to educate, support and inspire individuals to achieve their potential through strategic partnerships and community engagement.

The current initiatives within the Center are:

Life Planning Began in 1980 and formerly founded by the Tennessee Department of Education, Life Planning is a three and a one-half week program to assist displaced homemakers and single parents who lost primary wage earner through death, disablment, separation or divorce. Services include assessments, transferring skills from home to workplace, resume construction, interviewing and assistance with postsecondary education. Currently funded by donation.

Upward Bound. Upward Bound began in 1968 and provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Upward Bound serves: high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. Upward Bound serves 65 students from Howard, Brainerd, Red Bank and East Ridge High Schools.

GEAR UP: GEAR UP is a U.S. Department of Education grant program that is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP began at UTC in 1998 and provides students in Hamilton County with college readiness services including tutoring, college selection, application and financial aid assistance.

Educational Opportunity Center: Began in 1998 and founded by the U.S. Department of Education, the EOC offers information and assistance to individuals who want to become enrolled in a postsecondary educational or training program. Outreach efforts in Hamilton, Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Grundy, Dade, Walker and Catoosa Counties seek low income, potential first generation adults, foster children, homeless, veterans and veteran's families who want to improve their lives though education.

Upward Bound Math/Science. Began in 1999 and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Upward Bound Math/Science is designed to strengthen student skills in math and science and to encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees and careers in these fields. The program serves 50 students in Hamilton County from Howard and Brainerd High Schools who are low income and potential first generation college students.

Educational Talent Search. Began in 2006 and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Educational Talent Search is a college access program serving youths in Orchard Knob Middle School, East Lake Academy, Howard, CGLA and Brainerd High Schools. Talent Search was created for low-income, potential first-generation college students.

Postsecondary Awareness With Success (P.A.W.S.) The P.A.W.S. initiative began in 2007 and provides after-school homework assistance and mentoring for 50, 4th and 5th grade students at Brown Academy. Services are delivered by UTC student mentors. The program meets 2 times each week and includes early college awareness activities such as monthly visits to UTC. The program is led by UTC Students.

Each One Reach One (EORO). Since 1999, UTC has received funds to provide scholarships to pre-service teachers in high demand disciplines. These scholarships are awarded to students in their last 2 years in Science, Math, Foreign Language and K-12 Special Education.

College Knowledge, Now! (CK, Now!) is a collegiate awareness initiative geared towards elementary school students. After seven years of after-school programming based on elementary postsecondary awareness (PAWS program) and discovering the impact it had on fourth and fifth graders, it was evident that this knowledge should be available to more students at this level. CK, Now! will host groups of students on UTC’s campus for a “Moc College Day.” Children will learn how to get to and succeed in college (admissions), tour model dormitories, interact with UTC student athletes, complete lessons from our authentically designed curriculum Achieving the Dream: College Bound!, and more! Our hope is to inspire thousands of kids to discover their postsecondary potential through firsthand experience of the collegiate realm. While CK, Now! takes place at a four-year university, students will also be educated about two-year programs, technical certifications, and apprenticeships.

For services or additional information, please contact the Center for Community Career Education at (423) 425-4475. Visit our website at www.utc.edu/outreach/communitycareereducation.
The Challenger STEM Learning Center
Located on the campus of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the Challenger STEM Learning Center is formally a part of the College of Health, Education and Applied Professional Studies. The Center has three main focus areas. First, the Center participates in the College’s Teacher Preparation Academy (TPA), offering aspiring young students the opportunity to observe and participate in hands-on teaching experiences as part of their formal curriculum. Second, the Center offers professional development training/courses and mission-specific teacher in-service workshops that enrich the quality of teaching in our state. Third, the Center enjoys partnerships with school systems in surrounding counties, where students in grades K-8 travel to the Challenger Center to participate in 1- or 3-hour educational programs that have been designed and created to support school systems’ math, science or technology curriculums. The partnership and services offered by the Center afford the University the opportunity to influence Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education on a broad regional basis.

Writing & Communication Center
The Writing & Communication Center (WCC), located in Library 327, is a free service that supports writers of all backgrounds and proficiency levels with any kind of writing or communication project at any stage in the process. Peer consultants help writers brainstorm, organize ideas, develop or revise arguments, practice speeches, learn citation styles, become better self-editors, and more. Our sessions are collaborative and learning-focused. Our goal is for every writer to leave the WCC with improved confidence and a plan for revising. In addition to in-person and online consultations, we also offer workshops, a library of writers’ resources, and a supportive environment for working independently. For more information and to make an appointment, visit: www.utc.edu/wcc, call 425-1774, or stop by Library 327.

Center for Advisement
The Center for Advisement provides academic advising to first-year freshmen and students who have an undeclared major. The Center also assists incoming transfer students during the enrollment process as well as seniors who need to develop a graduation plan. University Studies courses are offered each semester that focus on major exploration and academic recovery for students on academic probation. A specialized living-learning community is also available for new transfer students. The advisors educate students regarding the University’s academic policies, procedures, and degree requirements, provide referrals for additional assistance, and reinforce the importance of getting involved. The center is located in Room 335 of the UTC Library. For more information, please visit our website at www.utc.edu/advise, email us at advise@utc.edu, or call at (423) 425-4573.

Center for College and Student Success
The focus of the Center for College and Student Success is to promote academic excellence and encourage self-directed and lifelong learning for all UTC students. Student Success will provide programs and services (to include supplemental instruction, tutoring, study skills) to help students perform well academically which will increase the graduation rate and retention of all UTC students. For additional information, please go to Room 335 of the UTC Library, or call 423-425-4573, or visit the website at http://www.utc.edu/center-college-student-success/.

Student Support Services
Student Support Services (SSS) is a federal TRIO program funded through a U.S. Department of Education grant. The program provides support to a select group of UTC students. The purpose of SSS is to offer a wide range of services designed to help students persist and graduate at the highest possible rate. We encourage students to be successful by engaging in program services and activities designed to build academic, financial and social skills; services that focus on the special needs of first year students and African American males, individual tutorials, academic monitoring, academic, career and personal counseling, financial support, academic/personal skill building workshops, free printing in a high technology SSS computer lab, cultural/social events and lots more.

Students who participate in SSS are more than twice as likely to remain at UTC and graduate than students from similar backgrounds who do not participate in the program. A students can become a participant at any level of their undergraduate career. Enrollment is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligibility for participation is considered if a student is first generation, financially limited or learning/physically disabled. We invite you to join SSS by downloading the enrollment forms from our website at http://www.utc.edu/student-support-services/. These forms should be printed, filled out, and sent to our office, either by mail, fax or in person, or you can fill them out in our office at 216 Frist Hall. APPLY EARLY! The Student Support Services website also has additional information on program services and activities. Should you have questions, we can be reached at 423-425-5235.