

2022-2023 Undergraduate Academic Standards Committee Report

Members: Rafayet Alam, Nominanda Barbosa, Francesco Barioli, Beth Crawford, Joe Dumas, Linda Frost, Tim Gaudin, Lauren Ingraham, Craig Laing, Matt Matthews, Deborah McAllister, Gregory O'Dea, Burch Oglesby (chair), Carl Springer, Adam Wolcott, Hannah Wakefield, Joel Wells, Dalei Wu

Charge: The function of the Undergraduate Academic Standards Committee is to review and make recommendations to maintain appropriate undergraduate academic standards for the University. It will review matters such as continuation standards, grade requirements for graduation and standards for academic honors for all undergraduate programs. In addition, it will make recommendations for policies involving academic standards in such areas as academic regulations, academic residency, and non-traditional credit. The academic standards committee may act on requests for studies, advisory opinions or policy recommendations initiated by the Senate, the administration, standing committees, academic units, and individual faculty members, as well as initiating its own studies and recommendations. Its recommendations will be presented to the Senate where appropriate. In other cases, the committee will send its conclusions directly to the initiating agent with an information copy to the Senate. The chair of the Academic Standards Committee is responsible for circulating the agenda for each meeting to the deans and department heads.

April 5th 2023 Meeting Summary:

Members Present: Nominanda Barbosa, Francesco Barioli, Beth Crawford, Tim Gaudin, Lauren Ingraham, Craig Laing, Matt Matthews, Deborah McAllister, Burch Oglesby (chair), Adam Wolcott, Hannah Wakefield, Joel Wells, Dalei Wu

Members Absent: Rafayet Alam, Joe Dumas, Linda Frost, Gregory O'Dea, Carl Springer

Meeting Summary: Matt Matthews brought a proposal to the committee to make some changes to the 60-hour rule. He presented information contrasting our current rule versus what is required by SACS and some of the other Universities in Tennessee. He also highlighted the fact that students transferring into UTC typically have more than 60 hours. He raised concerns that the current rule has required students to attend UTC for one or more additional semesters simply to complete electives to fulfill the 60 hour rule. This statement was echoed by several committee members. Concerns were raised that this might water down the UTC degree. However, it was pointed out that this rule only applied to electives. The student was still required to fulfill all the required courses of a major. With some input from the committee, the following revision of the rule was approved by a 9-0-0 vote. This proposal was then sent to the Faculty Senate for final approval and university adoption.

Current rule:

Complete 60 credit hours at an accredited senior (4-year) institution.

Students who have attended a junior or community college must complete at least 60 credit hours at a four year college or university with the last 24 credit hours completed at UTC.

Proposed Rule with highlighted changes:

Complete 45 credit hours at an accredited senior (4-year) institution.

Students ~~who have attended a junior or community college~~ must complete at least 45 credit hours at a four-year college or university with the last 24 credit hours completed at UTC.

Proposed rule without the edits:

Complete 45 credit hours at an accredited 4-year institution.

Students must complete at least 45 credit hours at a four-year college or university with the last 24 credit hours completed at UTC.