**Completion of Freshman-Level Courses**

Current policy indicate that students who do not complete their freshman level courses before they complete 90 credit hours will not receive credit towards these courses, even though they are still required to complete these freshman-level courses.

The proposal calls for the removal of the statement about not awarding credit for a required course, for the following reasons:

1. Federal Title IV funding regulations require that courses on the degree plan to contribute in credit hours towards the degree. By requiring a course but not awarding a credit, the current policy seems to be in violation with the Title IV funding regulations.
2. Current practices suggest that students did receive credit for freshman-level courses whether or not they were completed within the first 90 credit hours.

**Proposed Policy Change**

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All freshman-level courses that are required by specific course number ~~must~~ should be completed before the student has completed 90 hours toward the degree.~~No credit for these freshman-level courses will be granted toward fulfilling the minimum credit-hour requirements for the degree, even though the courses must be completed.~~

“

**Additional Information Regarding Degree Plans and Course Sequencing**

The Academic Policy Committee has discussed various ways in which requiring several freshman level courses to be completed early is valuable. Several of these courses are designed as a way to prepare students in academic writing and to broaden students’ perspective before diving into a specific discipline. These courses may in fact contribute to students’ discovering their passion and their preferred course of study at UTEP. Moreover, instructors of those courses may benefit from having a more uniform student population; by not mixing seniors and freshman in the same classrooms, and potentially putting freshman at a disadvantage early in their university experience.

However, the APC committee has identified that degree plans, advising, and course prerequisites are the appropriate tool in enforcing/recommending adequate course sequencing.