Proposed Policy Number and Title: 522 Undergraduate Credit and Degrees

Existing Policy Number and Title: 522 Undergraduate Credit and Transcripts

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<th>Approval Process*</th>
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Anticipated Expiration Date:

*See UVU Policy #101 Policy Governing Policies for process details.

Draft Number and Date:   November 23, 2014, Stage 4, Board of Trustees Review
President’s Council Sponsor:   Michelle Taylor  Ext.  6158
Policy Steward:   Margaret Bellon  Ext.  8348

POLICY APPROVAL PROCESS DATES

Policy Drafting and Revision
Entrance Date:   3/22/2012

University Entities Review
Entrance Date:   02/27/2014

University Community Review
Entrance Date:   08/14/2014
Open Feedback:   08/15/2014
Close Feedback:   09/10/2014

Board of Trustees Review
Entrance Date:   09/18/2014
Approval Date:   MM/DD/YYYY

POST APPROVAL PROCESS
Verify:
□ Policy Number
□ Section
□ Title
□ BOT approval
□ Approval date
□ Effective date
□ Proper format of Policy Manual posting
□ TOPS Pipeline and Archives update

Policy Office personnel who verified and posted this policy to the University Policy Manual
Name:   
Date posted and verified:   MM/DD/YYYY

Policy Office personnel who verified and posted this policy to the University Policy Manual
Name:   
Date posted and verified:   MM/DD/YYYY
1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 This policy establishes minimum credit hours, residency, and GPA requirements for the purpose of obtaining a degree, diploma, or certificate at UVU.

2.0 REFERENCES

2.1 Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities’ Policy on Credit Hour

2.2 Utah Board of Regents’ Policy R401 Approval of New Programs, Program Changes, Discontinued Programs, and Program Reports

2.3 Utah Board of Regents’ Policy R473 Standards for Granting Academic Credit for CTE Course Work Completed in Non-Credit Instructional Formats

2.4 UVU Policy 610 Credit Hour

3.0 DEFINITIONS

3.1 Academic Associate degrees: An Associate in Arts (AA) degree or an Associate in Science (AS) degree, which fulfills general education requirements and may be transferable to four-year institutions of higher learning. The Associate in Arts has a foreign language requirement, which the Associate in Science does not.

3.2 Academic renewal: The process of requesting an exception to policy to allow up to two semesters of course work to be excluded from a student’s academic GPA.

3.3 Advanced Placement Credit: A program created by CollegeBoard offering college-level curriculum and examinations to high school students.

3.4 Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees: A program of study (minimum 63 semester credit hours) intended to prepare students for entry-level careers.
3.5 Specialized Associate degrees: Programs of study that include extensive specialized course work and are intended to prepare students for upper-division courses in baccalaureate programs. These programs may contain general education requirements that are less extensive than Academic Associate degrees. Some of these degrees transfer.

3.6 Certificates of Completion: A program of study that is typically one year in length and prepares students for gainful employment in a specific occupation.

3.7 Certificates of Proficiency: A program of study that is typically less than one year in length and prepares students for gainful employment in a specific occupation.

3.8 CLEP credit: Standardized tests that assess college-level knowledge in several subject areas.

3.9 Challenge/experiential credit: Credit granted for prior learning experiences that can be shown through various means of assessment to be the equivalent of learning gained through formal collegiate instruction.

3.10 Credit hour: An amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency as defined by accrediting and federal bodies.

3.11 Credit ratio: The combination of contact hours (lecture and/or lab) associated with the total credits granted for successful completion of a course; e.g., a credit ratio of 3:3:0 indicates three total credits, three lecture contact hours, and zero lab contact hours per week (based on a 15-week semester).

3.12 Distance education: A formal educational process in which the majority of the instruction occurs when student and instructor are not in the same place. Instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous.

3.13 Endorsement, K-12 Teaching: A collection of courses that prepares K-12 teachers or teacher candidates for specific area certification by the Utah State Office of Education. UVU transcripts endorsement credits but does not award a certificate or diploma for endorsements.

3.14 Grade-point average: The number of grade points a student earned in a given period of time divided by the total number of credits taken.

3.15 Internship: On-the-job training, which may be paid or unpaid.

3.16 Transcript: An official record that documents a student’s academic history and performance.
3.17 **UVU residency**: The number of credits completed at UVU, excluding prior experiential learning credit, transfer credit, and challenge credit.

### 4.0 POLICY

#### 4.1 Transcripts

4.1.1 UVU maintains a record of each student’s academic history and performance.

4.1.2 Course grades are processed at the end of each semester and recorded on student transcripts.

4.1.3 Degrees are processed and entered on transcripts within six to eight weeks after the graduation date.

4.1.4 The Registrar’s office is responsible for all changes and additions to student transcripts, such as grade changes, repeats, notations, etc.

#### 4.2 Requirements for Award of Degrees

4.2.1 **Residency**: Credit hours in residency (UVU credits) at a UVU campus, satellite, or branch campus, or through distance education or concurrent enrollment, are required for all certificates, diplomas, and degrees. Minimum hours are as follows:

1) Certificates of proficiency require 25% of total credit hours (rounded up);

2) Certificates of completion require 10 credit hours;

3) Associate degrees and diplomas require 20 credit hours;

4) Baccalaureate degrees require 30 credit hours (10 credits of those 30 shall have been completed within the last 45 credit hours earned for the degree).

4.2.2 **Total hours**: A candidate for a certificate, diploma, or degree shall complete the following number of credit hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate/Degree</th>
<th>Number of Semester Credit Hours Required for Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of Proficiency</td>
<td>Less than 30 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of Completion</td>
<td>30–33 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>50 credit hours</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate in Applied Science degree</td>
<td>63–69 credit hours (some disciplines may require more due to specialized accreditation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree</td>
<td>60–63 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Associate’s degrees</td>
<td>68–85 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baccalaureate degree (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Professional Bachelor’s degrees)</td>
<td>120–126 credit hours, 40 of which shall be upper-division credits (level 3000 and above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>9–29 credit hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.3 Minors

**4.3.1** Minors consist of 16–24 credit hours with a minimum of 50% upper-division credit. Minors shall be awarded only at the time a bachelor degree is being awarded. Minors shall not be awarded with a bachelor degree of the same major.

**4.3.2** Individual departments shall decide if a minor may be attached to a major and if credits may be used for both a minor and major from an academic program.

### 4.4 Multiple Degrees

**4.4.1** Students may earn multiple certificates.

**4.4.2** Students may earn only one academic associate degree from Utah Valley University: either an Associate in Science or an Associate in Arts.

**4.4.3** With some exceptions, students may earn multiple Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees, specialized associate degrees, and baccalaureate degrees.

**4.4.4** A second bachelor's degree may be awarded when all requirements for both degrees are satisfied, including the following:

1) All UVU general education requirements are satisfied.

2) Thirty semester hours beyond the original degree are completed.

3) Twenty semester hours of the 30 hours in item 2 above are completed at UVU (resident hours).

### 4.5 Multiple Emphases

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4.5.1 Students may earn additional emphases, with departmental approval, under a specific bachelor's degree by completing the requirements for those emphases. Additional emphases shall appear on transcripts, but no additional diplomas shall be awarded.

4.6 Dual Baccalaureate Majors (One Degree with Two Majors)

4.6.1 A baccalaureate degree with dual majors may be awarded when a student completes all requirements for two approved degrees from the approved dual majors list, but has not met the required 30 semester hours for a second degree beyond the original degree (see section 4.4.3). The student shall receive a single baccalaureate degree; the diploma and transcript shall list both majors.

4.6.2 Students apply for graduation for only one degree type, such as a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts, when applying for the dual major.

4.6.3 In order to be awarded a dual major, students shall complete both majors during or prior to the semester of graduation. If students have already graduated in one of the majors, they may not apply for a dual major. After being awarded a dual major degree, students may not apply for graduation for one of the dual majors separately.

4.6.4 Students shall have no more than three course substitutions from the required courses for the two majors combined.

4.6.5 Students may not receive minors in either major, but may be awarded a minor from another area if all requirements are met.

4.6.6 Credits shall not exceed the 160 credit-hour limit with the two combined majors.

4.7 GPA Requirements

4.7.1 A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (“C”) is required for graduation.

4.7.2 Some programs may require a higher cumulative grade-point average than 2.0 (“C”), and they may require specific course grade requirements.

5.0 PROCEDURES

5.1 Challenge Credit/Experiential Credit (Equivalency Examination and/or Documentation of Earned Competency)

5.1.1 No more than 25 percent of the minimum credits required toward a bachelor’s degree, an associate degree, diploma, or certificate of completion, may be awarded through experiential and/or challenge credit. Challenge credit and experimental credit are not eligible for use in a certificate of proficiency. Credit for courses that appear in the current catalog may be awarded.
to individuals who can prove through appropriate assessment and/or documentation that they have already acquired the equivalent knowledge and/or expertise required for successful completion of that course.

5.1.2 To receive challenge/experiential credit for a specific course, the student shall:

1) Be enrolled at the University;

2) For challenge credit, complete a comprehensive examination (theoretical and/or applied) with at least a “C-” grade; or for experiential credit, provide documentation of practical experience to the satisfaction of the department chairperson and dean showing course objectives have been met; or with departmental approval, complete an advanced course with a grade of “C-” or higher (if deemed necessary by the department) as a validation procedure.

3) Pay, in advance, a nonrefundable processing fee;

4) After successful completion of requirements, pay the per-credit-hour fee.

5.1.3 A specific course shall be challenged only once, and a student shall not receive challenge/experiential credit for a course that the student is/or has been previously enrolled in and received a grade, including a “W” grade.

5.1.4 Duplicate credit shall not be awarded.

5.1.5 Grades shall be recorded only as “CR” (credit) and shall not be calculated in a student’s university GPA.

5.2 Language Challenge/Experiential Credit

5.2.1 Students who have acquired proficiency in languages offered at the University by means other than college courses (high school, foreign residency, etc.), may earn up to 16 credit hours. To qualify for those credits, a student shall complete a course in that language at a higher level than the credits for which he or she applies, and the grade in that course shall be a “C-” or higher.

5.2.2 To qualify for credit for language courses not offered at the University, a student may, as an alternative, take the appropriate language test at any accredited four-year institution and provide the University with the satisfactory (“C-”) test results.

5.2.3 Students who qualify for credit under the above provisions shall petition for those credits and pay a fee for each credit hour; no additional tuition shall be charged for those credits. The credits shall be listed on transcripts as “CR” (credit) and are not calculated in students’ university GPA.
5.3 Internship Credit

5.3.1 The maximum number of internship credits that shall be applied toward a certificate of completion is 8; a diploma, 14; and an associate or bachelor's degree, 16. Departments define how internship credit is applied to specific programs. No internship credits shall apply toward a certificate of proficiency. If an additional internship credit is desired for a specific educational objective, it may be taken (but not applied toward graduation) with approval of the student's internship coordinator and the appropriate chair and dean. Internship coursework shall be directly associated with the certificate, diploma, or degree.

5.4 Advanced Placement Credit

5.4.1 Students who complete an Advanced Placement Exam through CollegeBoard may earn up to 8 academic credits per test with a score of 3, 4, or 5, as per the policies set forth by the Utah State Board of Regents.

5.4.2 Specific equivalencies and acceptance criteria are updated annually, upon appropriate departmental faculty review and approval.

5.4.3 Grades shall be awarded only as “CR” (credit) and shall not be calculated in the student’s university GPA.

5.4.4 There is no limit to the number of AP credits that may be awarded; however, duplicate credit for tests and course work shall not be applied.

5.5 College Level Examination Program Credit (CLEP)

5.5.1 Students may complete CLEP tests and receive credit as determined by Utah State Board of Regents’ policy.

5.5.2 Specific equivalencies and acceptance criteria are updated annually, upon faculty review and approval.

5.5.3 Grades shall be awarded only as “CR” (credit) and shall not be calculated in students’ university GPA.

5.6 Academic Renewal

5.6.1 For students who are challenged with a low GPA or for those who have experienced a period of low grades that does not reflect their academic potential, UVU offers academic renewal. A student is allowed to petition the Registrar for academic renewal only one time during his or her enrollment at the University. This process shall remove a limited amount of
previous academic work from the student’s GPA and from credit toward graduation. To be eligible, a student shall meet the following conditions at the time the petition is filed:

1) The student is currently enrolled at UVU;

2) A minimum of two years has elapsed since the most recent course work to be eliminated was completed;

3) The student has completed at least 30 semester hours of UVU course work with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50. These 30 hours shall have been completed after the course work the student is requesting to eliminate;

4) The student’s cumulative GPA is below the level necessary for graduation in his or her current program of study. In most instances, this is a 2.0 cumulative GPA;

5) The requested course work has not been used toward an existing degree.

5.6.2 The student may request a maximum of two specific semesters/terms of academic course work be eliminated from his or her earned credits and cumulative GPA. Individual courses shall not be accepted.

5.6.3 If the petition qualifies under this policy, the student’s permanent academic record shall be annotated to indicate that no work taken during the disregarded semester(s) and/or term(s), even if satisfactory, shall apply toward earned credits, GPA, academic standing, and/or graduation requirements. All work shall remain on the records, ensuring a true and accurate academic history. The words “Academic Renewal” and the affected semester(s)/term(s) shall be annotated on the student's transcript.

5.6.4 Academic renewal shall not be requested to earn or change academic honors status on a student’s transcript.

5.6.5 No exceptions shall be made to this policy. Students shall be aware that this policy may not be accepted at transfer institutions, and all credit, including those with academic renewal, may still be calculated by the transfer institution.

5.7 Transfer Credit/Transfer Degrees

5.7.1 All students with previous institutional credit from an institution other than UVU shall submit their transcripts upon admission to the University. All transcripts shall be received by an Enrollment Services Office directly from the transferring institution. Hand-carried transcripts are considered official only when they are in a sealed and stamped envelope from the originating institution. They shall not be more than six months old.
5.7.2 Transfer courses with grades below "C-" are not accepted, except in the case of general education credits transferred from a Utah System of Higher Education Institution with an AA/AS degree. Individual departments have the authority to impose a limit to the age and number of transfer credits accepted toward an individual program. As long as all residency, credit, and grade point average requirements are met, there is no limit to the number of transfer credits that may be accepted by the University.

5.7.3 Transfer courses are posted in the computer system with the grades earned. The transferring grades, however, are not calculated into students’ UVU grade-point average.

5.7.4 If subject content is equivalent, lower-division coursework transferred from other institutions may be substituted for UVU upper-division courses. However, these courses shall not satisfy upper-division credit hour requirements.

5.8 Repeats

5.8.1 Repeats are automatically posted on transcripts each term. Repeats are not posted on any class from which the student has withdrawn. The last grade obtained for a repeated class is the one that is computed into the student's GPA. The transcript shows that this class has been repeated.

5.8.2 Courses are not accepted from other institutions for the purpose of posting a repeat of a course already taken at UVU.

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Printed On:
November 24, 2014
A. Credit Requirements

1. Residence. At least 10 credit hours in residence at UVU or satellite sites are required for one-year certificates; 20 credit hours for associate degrees and diplomas; and 30 credit hours for baccalaureate degrees, 10 of which must have been completed within the last 45 hours earned.

2. Credit. A candidate for a degree, diploma, or certificate must complete the following: a minimum of 60-63 credit hours for an associate degree, 50 credit hours for a diploma, and 30 credit hours for a one-year certificate. A candidate for a baccalaureate degree must complete a minimum of 120-126 credit hours—40 of which must be upper division credits (level 300 and above).

3. Grade-Point Average. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 "C" is required for graduation. In some programs, grades below 2.0 will not be accepted for graduation (see individual program requirements).

4. Cooperative Education. The maximum number of co-op credits that may be applied toward a certificate is 8; a diploma, 14; an associate or bachelor's degree, 16 credit hours. Departments define how co-op credit is applied to specific programs. If additional co-op credit is desired for a specific educational objective, it may be taken (but not applied toward graduation) with approval of the student's cooperative education coordinator, director of cooperative education, and the appropriate chair and dean. Students must take co-op which is directly associated with their certificate, diploma or degree.

5. Experiential/Challenge Credit. No more than 25 percent of the credits applied toward an associate degree, diploma, or certificate may be awarded through experiential and/or challenge credit. Regardless of the certificate, diploma, or degree (including baccalaureate degrees), 16 credit hours of experiential/challenge credit is the maximum that may be applied.

6. Advanced Placement Credit. As long as residence, credit, and grade point average requirements have been met, there is no limit to the number of Advanced Placement credits which may be accepted.

7. CLEP Credit. The number of credits given through CLEP subject examinations is determined by the appropriate departments.

8. Multiple Degrees.

a. Individuals may earn either an AS or an AA degree and may, in addition, earn AAS degree/s and bachelor degree/s. A student having an AS/AA degree from another college may not earn another AS/AA degree at UVU. However, a student having an AAS degree...
from another college may earn additional AAS degree/s and/or an AS/AA degree at UVU, as well as earning a bachelor's degree and multiple emphases.

b. Additional AAS degrees may be awarded when all requirements for each degree are satisfied.

e. A second bachelor's degree may be awarded when all requirements for both degrees are satisfied, along with the following:
   1. All UVU general education requirements must be satisfied.
   2. Thirty semester hours beyond the original degree must be completed.
   3. Twenty semester hours of the 30 hours in No. 2 above must be completed at UVU (resident hours).

9. Multiple emphases.

   Additional emphases under a specific bachelor's degree may be earned by completion of the requirements for those emphases. Additional emphases will appear on transcripts, but no additional diplomas will be awarded.

10. Transcripts

   After grades are processed at the end of each semester, they are entered on students' transcripts and grade reports are produced for each student from the Computer Center. Grade reports are mailed to students at the end of the term.

   a. The Coordinator of Grades and Records is responsible for all changes and additions to the transcript such as grade changes, challenge credit, repeats, etc.

II. Procedures

A. Transfer Credit

   1. All official incoming transcripts are automatically posted and copies are forwarded to the Transfer Credit Office for evaluation of general education credits. Once the evaluation is completed, transcripts are forwarded to appropriate departments for evaluation of major credits. All transcripts must be received by the Admissions Office directly from the transferring college. Hand-carried transcripts are not considered official and will not be used for transfer credit evaluation.

   2. Transfer courses with grades below "C-" are not accepted. Individual departments reserve the right to impose a limit to the age of transfer credit accepted. As long as all residence, credit, and grade point average requirements are met, there is no limit to the number of transfer credits which may be accepted.

   3. Transfer credit is input to the computer by Transfer Credit Office personnel. Transfer courses are posted on the computer system with the grades earned. The transferring grades, however, are not calculated into UVU's grade point average.

   4. Transfer Credit Office personnel evaluate transcripts listing course work for which an equivalent course is not found on the computerized equivalency tables maintained by the Transfer Credit office. Copies of transcripts which contain departmental courses not already found on the tables are forwarded to the appropriate department for review and evaluation. The Transfer Credit Office will input the resulting decisions on the equivalency tables. General Studies course work not found on the tables is evaluated in the Transfer Credit Office with the approval, when necessary, of appropriate deans.
5. Baccalaureate degree: If subject content is equivalent, 100- or 200-level courses transferred from other institutions may be substituted for UVU upper-division courses. However, these courses will not satisfy upper-division credit-hour requirements.

B. Repeats

1. Repeats are automatically posted on transcripts each term. Repeats are not posted on any class from which the student has withdrawn. The last grade obtained for a repeated class is the one that computes into the student’s GPA. The transcript shows that this class has been repeated. When adding repeats to the SACMIS screen (before Fall 1986) the cumulative hours and points must be changed on the SIS screens.

2. Courses are not accepted from other institutions for the purpose of posting a repeat of a course already taken at UVU.

C. Challenge Credit (Equivalency Examination and/or Documentation of Earned Competency)

1. Credit for any course that appears in the current catalog may be awarded to individuals who can prove through appropriate assessment and/or documentation that they have already acquired the equivalent knowledge and/or expertise required for successful completion of that course.

2. To receive experiential/challenge credit for a specific course, the student must
   a. be admitted to the institution and currently enrolled for at least 3 semester hours of credit;
   b. complete the semester in which the challenge credit is awarded with at least 3 earned semester hours of credit, excluding the challenge credit;
   c. obtain department chair approval prior to step 4;
   d. pay in advance a nonrefundable processing fee;
   e. complete a comprehensive examination (theoretical and/or applied) with at least a "C -" grade and/or provide documentation of practical experience to the satisfaction of the department chairperson and dean showing course objectives have been met. OR complete an advanced course with a grade of "C - or higher (if deemed necessary by the department) as a validation procedure;
   f. pay a fee for each approved credit hour.

3. A specific course may be challenged only once.

4. As in III(B)(5) above, a course may be challenged through prior permission of the department chairperson by allowing enrollment in an advanced class that typically would require previous course work when there is valid evidence that the student may have already achieved the required competency. The competency may have been attained through work experience and/or private study. If the student is successful in the advanced class (grade "C -" or better), he/she may apply through the department chairperson for credit for classes taken in sequence up to the challenged class, at a fee for each credit hour.

5. Duplicate credit will not be awarded.

D. Language Challenge Procedures

1. Students who have acquired proficiency in languages offered at the institution by means other than college courses (high school, foreign residency, etc.) may earn up to 18 credit
hours. However, to qualify for those credits, a student must complete a course in that language at a higher level than the credits for which he/she applies, and the grade in that course must be a "C-" or better.

2. To qualify for credit for language courses not offered at the institution, a student may take the appropriate language test at any accredited four-year institution and provide the institution with the satisfactory ("C-") test results.

3. Proficiency tests to determine placement (not credit) in advanced courses are administered in the UVU Assessment Center prior to the beginning of each semester. Students unsure of their language skills should take the test or receive permission from the course instructor before registering for advanced classes.

4. Students who qualify for credit under the above provisions (for example, they place in and successfully complete Spanish 201 with at least a "C-" grade, thus qualifying for the credits for the previous courses--101 and 102) must petition for those credits (application forms are available) and pay a fee for each credit hour; no additional tuition will be charged for those credits. The credits will be listed on transcripts as "CR" (credit) and are not calculated in the GPA.

E. Advanced Placement Credit

1. In recognition of the Advanced Placement Program sponsored by the College Entrance Examination Board, students who complete an Advanced Placement course in high school and receive a grade of 3, 4, or 5 on the corresponding Advanced Placement Examination will be granted up to 8 credits in that subject. Credit will be posted as a "CR" grade and will not be calculated in the GPA. If all residence, credit, and grade point average requirements are met, there is no limit to the number of Advanced Placement credits which may be accepted.

F. College Level Examination Program Credit (CLEP)

1. Students may receive college credit for CLEP examinations as specified on the approved list in the Academic Advisement Center. Additionally, students intending to transfer to another institution from UVU should articulate with their intended transfer institutions to gain advance information on how that institution accepts CLEP credit. CLEP credit will be posted as a "CR" grade and will not be calculated in the GPA. The amount of credit given through CLEP subject examinations is determined by the appropriate departments.