

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 21, 2012

TO: Deans, Directors, Department Heads, and Advisors

FROM: George Gehrels, Chair, Undergraduate Council
Celeste F. Pardee, Associate, Curricular Affairs

RE: **Physical Education Activity Credit Maximum**

In July 2011, then-President Shelton signed an Interim Policy on Physical Education (PE) Transfer Credit, which authorized the acceptance of PE activity courses by transfer without limit. In September Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Gail Burd charged the Undergraduate Council with developing a permanent policy on the transfer and use of PE activity credits in the baccalaureate degree. A policy to replace the interim one was proposed by Undergraduate Council in March 2012 and approved by the Faculty Senate on 5/7/12. The new policy—**to continue accepting an unlimited number of PE activity courses by transfer but to place a 3-credit maximum on PE activity courses that count toward the degree** (see below)—applies to all incoming, readmitted and continuing undergraduate students, effective Summer/Fall 2012.

Amendment to “Graduation Averages and Credit Requirements,” <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2012-13/policies/gradavg.htm>

Elective Credit Maximums:

No more than three (3) Physical Education activity credits and no more than three (3) [Success Course credits](#) will apply as general elective credit toward a bachelor’s degree.

Amendment to “Acceptability of Transfer Credit,” <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2012-13/policies/acceptcr.htm>

- *Remedial, vocational, technical, highly specialized and personal development courses are not accepted for credit.*
- *Physical education (PE) activity courses are accepted for credit; however, no more than three (3) PE activity credits will apply as general electives toward the student’s degree.*
- *Proficiency or competency credit-by-exam earned at another college or university is non-transferable.*

Justification for the amendments:

- The faculty believes that non-academic physical education (PE) activity courses should be limited to 3 elective units in a student’s degree program to preserve the academic integrity of a UA degree.
- A 3-unit maximum of PE activity electives in the bachelor’s degree is consistent with the 3-unit maximum for Success Courses.
- The faculty supports the physical fitness of undergraduates; thus, students may take an unlimited number of PE activity courses at the UA or may transfer an unlimited number from regionally accredited institutions. All activity credits will count toward earned units and class standing.
- Graduating students who transferred PE activity courses to the UA in the past 4 years (2008 – 2011) averaged no more than 3 PE activity units.

- The NCAA has set a limit of 2 PE activity units that can apply to a prospective transfer student-athlete's academic eligibility requirements, so transfer student-athletes will not be disadvantaged by the 3-unit limit on activity courses in their UA degree.
- The 3-unit maximum is in line with limits on PE activity credits established by several UA peer institutions (e.g., UCLA, U. of Minnesota, UT-Austin, U. of Washington).

Management of the Policy:

- The Registrar's Office designates all transferable physical education activity courses as "PE Activity Elective" (with a requirement designation of "PEAC") when accepted for credit in UAccess; those transfer credits are then monitored in total degree units.
- PE activity courses are defined as "traditional team or individual sports or physical fitness activities." Students may file a Transfer Credit Appeal with the Registrar's Office if they believe that an activity course from a regionally accredited institution that was initially deemed non-transferable should be accepted for credit.
- When UA departments propose physical education activity courses for non-majors, those will be given a "PEAC" requirement designation that can be monitored by UAccess.
- PE activity courses may only apply as general electives; they may not apply to General Education or to the minor. The decision to apply activity courses to the major resides with the student's College or Major Department.
- The Student Academic Advisement Report will display any excess (>3) units of PE activity course work, just as it shows excess units of Success Course work, on the page where the limit is stated.
- Continuing students who have already been granted transfer credit for more than 3 PE activity courses will not be penalized by this credit maximum; those continuing students may apply all "PEAC" units that were awarded through Spring 2012 to their degree.

Questions about credit for Physical Education (PE) activity courses may be addressed to Celeste Pardee, Curriculum Associate, at 621-5375, or at cpardee@u.arizona.edu.