

Proposal to Eliminate the Transfer Credit Maximum from CCs

Background

The SUNY Oswego policy that undergraduate students must have 60 credits at a four-year college (Oswego or any other four-year college) has existed for a very long time. This often limits the number of credits students can transfer when coming from a community college (a two-year college).

This policy has had very little impact on most of our students. Students still need to complete the other all-college requirements: 120 total earned credits (some programs require more), 42 credits in Upper Division courses, and the Liberal Arts credit required for the program. Students also have to complete requirements in their majors, minors, and General Education to earn a degree. Most transfer students easily have another 60 credits to complete when they transfer in.

However, with the Upper Division requirement only at 42 credits, and with many small majors, we find ourselves in a position where some transfer students lose their transfer credits from a community college that they need to complete graduation requirements here at Oswego. These students are then forced to take additional courses in order to meet the total credit requirement for their program. In effect, they end up completing more than 120 credits to earn their baccalaureate at Oswego since some of their credits from two-year colleges are not counted.

The other chronic issue we face is with students who have transferred in 60 credits already from a community college, but are advised to take a course at a CC in order to make progress towards completing requirements. The transfer of these courses may satisfy a degree requirement, but no additional credits are earned. Misunderstandings resulting in students needing yet *another* course to complete their credit requirements (even though they had earned those credits under our advice at a two-year school), are common. It is difficult for advisors and very distressing for students.

This policy also implies, though it is not explicitly stated, that credits at a four-year college (not necessarily Oswego) are worth more than those at a two-year college. This is a flawed assertion and not one that is shared by most of our sister institutions in SUNY. Only one other SUNY (Geneseo) has explicit language requiring 60 credits at a four-year college. A list of residency requirements and limits on transfer credits at other SUNY universities are attached.

Recommendation

Oswego eliminates the policy requiring 60 credits from a four-year school. Our residency requirement remains at 30 credits whether students transfer in from a two or four-year institution. All students must complete 30 credits at Oswego to earn a baccalaureate. All other all-college requirements remain in place, including the 42 credits of Upper Division. Students still need to complete their majors (and minors) and General Education. We also still have the requirement that half of the major or a minor must be completed at Oswego.

In the *College Standards and Policies* section of the Undergraduate Catalog, under **Graduation** ...

Change:

Complete a minimum of 60 credit hours from an accredited four-year institution, 30 credit hours of which must be earned at Oswego.

To:

Complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at SUNY Oswego.

In the *Curriculum Information* section, under **Approval for Off-Campus Study** ...

Change:

Students may not exceed the maximum number of credits that can be transferred in; as explained elsewhere in the catalog, students must earn a minimum of 30 credits at Oswego and a minimum of 60 credits at a four-year institution when earning a baccalaureate. Students may complete a graduation requirement after approval elsewhere, but, they may not exceed the maximum number of credits that can be transferred in for the degree. In most cases, a maximum of 60 credit hours of lower division credit from two-year schools may be applied toward the Oswego bachelor's degree.

To:

Students may not exceed the maximum number of credits that can be transferred in. Students must earn a minimum of 30 credits at Oswego. At least half of the credits for a major and half of the credits for a minor must also be completed at Oswego.

SUNY School	Residency Requirement	Transfer Limits
Oswego	30 credits, half the major, half of the minor	must have 60 crd at a 4-year
Albany	a minimum of 30 of their last 60 graduation credits in courses at the Albany campus.	A maximum of 90 transfer credits can be applied toward your bachelor's degree requirements.
Brockport	30 credits, 15 credits of any major, and fifty percent of any minor or certification program must be taken at SUNY Brockport.	Transferring a completed two-year degree (AA, AS or AAS) from a regionally accredited college will guarantee that you transfer at least 60 credits with full junior status, and up to the maximum of 64 credits.
Cortland	A minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework as well as half of the major, minor	64 credits maximum from two-year colleges.
Fredonia	45 credits	Students may transfer up to 75 hours of college credit from their previous college(s)
Geneseo	30 credits	up to 60 credits from two-year colleges, up to 90 credits from four-year schools
New Paltz	30 credits	70 credits from an accredited two-year college and a maximum of 90 credits from an accredited four-year college or university.
Oneonta	45 credits in residence	A maximum of 75 credits can be transferred
Potsdam	30 academic credit hours	None
Plattsburgh	46 credits	67 transfer credits from two-year colleges. Students transferring from four-year colleges may transfer up to 84 semester hours provided that at least 17 of those hours were earned at four-year colleges.