

**UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Request for Change(s)**

Originating unit requesting change

Faculty Senate and Associate Deans

Type of Change requested:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course number(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Course prerequisite(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Program description |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course title | <input type="checkbox"/> Drop course(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course description | <input type="checkbox"/> Drop program(s) | |

Semester and year change(s) take effect:

Fall 2022

Appropriate computer abbreviation if course title is more than 30 spaces:

Briefly summarize the change requested:

This proposal is supported by faculty senate and the associate deans. We propose to change the minimum number of hours required to earn an undergraduate degree at TCU, from 124 to 120. We have discussed this with representatives from across the university and there is widespread support and little concern.

Programs Only

Program Name: __TCU undergraduate degree minimum hour requirement

Current Code: _____ Proposed New Code (list 2): _____ or _____
(ex: INDE-BFA)

Can have second major: ___ Yes ___ No

Current CIP Code: _____

Does the change require a new or change in CIP code? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, what is the proposed CIP code? _____

*for reference, please visit: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/resources.aspx?y=56>

Catalog copy

Present catalog copy (paste-up from catalog is acceptable).

Proposed change(s). (Include exact catalog copy as desired. Underline changes)

Total Credits and Residence Requirements

Total Credits and Residence Requirements

Beyond the curricular requirements, each candidate for a bachelor's degree is required to:

1. Successfully complete at least 124 semester hours of credit.

Beyond the curricular requirements, each candidate for a bachelor's degree is required to:

1. Successfully complete at least 120 semester hours of credit.

Request for Changes

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1. What is the justification for the change(s) requested?
 - Many of our peer and aspirational universities, including Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, Tulane, UNT, UT, Syracuse, Rice, and Elon require just 120 hours.
 - This has been a discussion that reemerged last year, and before that in 2005, with widespread support, but never came to fruition.
 - The reason for the somewhat strange number of hours seems to be due to a requirement for PE classes many decades ago.
 - Given that 15 hours is generally considered a normal course load, we think that a student ought to be able to complete an undergraduate degree in 8 semesters of 15 hours each, totaling 120 hours.
 - Across the university, students often get in a tight spot and need to take an overage or transfer in hours to make up the extra four hours. This is a source of complaints from both students and parents to faculty, associate deans, and administrators.
 - This change seems unlikely to result in a reduction in tuition dollars because of the flat fee tuition scale TCU uses for students taking between 12 and 18 in a long semester.
 - It would likely create some relief in offering elective classes that just serve as hours for some students. This may help with budget issues across many colleges as faculty lines are frozen and adjunct budgets are tight.
 - We are still looking into any additional policies that may need to be changed at the same time (e.g., residency hours), but don't perceive other significant changes as a result and no negatives have emerged.
 - There are numerous degrees across the university, including in our colleges of fine arts and science and engineering, that require over the minimum to graduate, but those would remain unchanged if this policy were changed.
2. If applicable, explain how the change(s) will affect the current program outcomes and assessment mechanisms.

N/A

3. **Faculty Resources:** How will the unit provide faculty support for this change and any other impact this change may have on other current departmental listings.

N/A

4. **Educational Resources:** Will this change require additional resources not currently available (e.g. space, equipment, library, other)? YES
If yes, list additional resources needed. NO

5. If this change affects other units of the University, include a statement signed by the chairperson(s) of the affected unit(s).

6. If cross-listed, provide evidence of approval by all curriculum committees appropriate to both the originating and cross-listed units.

Michael Butler

Approval signature of chairperson of originating unit