



Resolution on 64-Credit Limit for A.A., A.S., A.A.S. and A.O.S. Degrees
#ASA1 2012-2013
Passed Unanimously on March 23, 2013

WHEREAS successful student transfer within the State University of New York has been a central theme in the policies and strategic and master plans of the SUNY Board of Trustees since 1972, including Board Resolution 2009-138 on Student Mobility, adopted on November 17, 2009; and

WHEREAS the SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution dated December 17, 2013, entitled “Seamless Transfer Requirements” is in support of this goal; and

WHEREAS certain A.A. and A.S. degrees are designed as both transfer and career programs primarily intended to prepare graduates for immediate employment in a specific occupation; and

WHEREAS many A.A.S. and A.O.S. degrees, which are also designed as career programs primarily intended to prepare graduates for immediate employment in a specific occupation, have community-based advisory committees which make curriculum recommendations; and

WHEREAS many such A.A., A.S., A.A.S., and A.O.S. programs are accredited by independent third-party accrediting agencies and by virtue of such status qualify graduates for NYS licensure and/or national or state recognized certification or registration with respect to a recognized occupation; and

WHEREAS the aforementioned Board resolution would be unnecessarily intrusive and potentially damaging to existing accreditation for some of the already approved A.A., A.S., A.A.S. and A.O.S. programs, many of which require specific course content in order to satisfy licensure requirements and workforce demands; and

WHEREAS the curriculum of A.A., A.S., A.A.S., and A.O.S. degrees are systematically reviewed in the SUNY program review process; and

WHEREAS many A.A., A.S., A.A.S., and A.O.S. degrees that exceed 64 credits routinely require students to complete significant laboratory and/or studio coursework in their first two years in order to transfer seamlessly; and

WHEREAS the Office of the Provost acknowledges in the background of the aforementioned Board resolution that there may exist “. . . a compelling justification for additional credits. . .”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges strongly urges the Office of the Provost to work with the Faculty Council in developing and articulating clear criteria for issuing waivers to programs with more than 64 credits; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the Faculty Council recommends with respect to our established campus governance processes, that the Office of the Provost allow a period of at least 2 years for implementation of this policy; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the Faculty Council recommends that an advisory committee with representatives from all sectors be identified to deliberate campus appeals for waivers that are requested but not granted by the Office of the Provost; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the Faculty Council recommends that program waivers shall automatically be issued to any A.A., A.S., A.A.S., or A.O.S. program meeting any of the following criteria:

- (1) The A.A., A.S., A.A.S., or A.O.S. degree is currently accredited by a third-party accreditation agency whose standards for such accreditation are based in part on an existing curriculum in excess of 64 credits; or
- (2) The A.A., A.S., A.A.S., or A.O.S. degree has graduates who are qualified upon receipt of such degree for NYS licensure in a profession recognized by the NYS Department of Education, or for certification or registration by a federal, state, or industry-recognized association, professional society, or credentialing agency; or
- (3) Programs with established articulation agreements, to which a substantial number of students transfer, or to which such programs are only offered at that transfer institution; or
- (4) A program where an advisory board has suggested additional requirements to the existing curriculum based on industry standards; or
- (5) A program that includes additional requirements to allow for courses or activities which facilitate student completion and success; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the Faculty Council recommends when the criteria for an automatic waiver does not apply, that the following additional criteria be considered when determining whether a waiver shall be issued to any A.A., A.S., A.A.S., or A.O.S. degrees;

- (1) A program that needs additional requirements due to institutional learning outcomes, objectives, or goals; or
- (2) A program that contains a substantial number of 4-credit courses, as appropriate to the discipline; or
- (3) A program where there may exist “. . . a compelling justification for additional credits. . . .”