

## ECAC request to review Student Semester Credit Load relating to Summer Term

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**Date:** December 5, 2005 8:32:38 AM GMT-05:00  
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**Subject: Summer Term Course Loads**

ECAC met on November 22, 2005 and discussed the issue of Procedures to Deal with Summer School from Professor Weber. It was agreed that Professor Weber would submit his questions and we would refer them on to UCAP for review. Professor Weber has submitted the following for referral to UCAP:

I request that UCAP consider the apparent lack of a policy regarding maximum course loads in the summer term. My understanding is that the University has a policy limiting students to a maximum of 20 credits in a given term, subject to some exceptions. Based on my communications with the Registrar's office, below, it appears that no attempt is being made to enforce that policy in the summer. The reason given for that failure is that "The policy is silent regarding summer." I think the policy needs to be made explicitly applicable to the summer term with the expectation that proportionate adjustments will be made to cover the various fractional term courses that are offered, particularly in the summer. Obviously, given the complexity of summer term scheduling, there probably should be an override mechanism tied to this policy. Letting students overload themselves diminishes the value of their education, sets them up for failure and to some degree interferes with the education of the students in the class carrying normal loads.

Dick Weber

E-Mail from Dick Weber, ECAC Rep. to Linda Stanford, Registrar:

For the second summer I have run across a student who registered for four courses in the first summer half term. I realize that is terminal stupidity on the part of the student, but I also understand that there is a semester limit on credits of 20. It would seem that that would translate to a limit of 10 for a half term, but obviously that isn't being enforced. The big problem is that with this going on you are never sure what the cause is when the students start complaining about too much work. Do you know what is going on?

Response from Linda Stanford, Registrar:

The policy is silent regarding summer. It is important to note that students may be enrolling on-campus, off-campus, online and abroad with completely different time schedules. Students manage their own enrollments. The average number of credits student take in the summer is between 6 and 8.

Student complaints about the amount of work in a course are not related to the number of courses a student elects to take.

## **Semester Credit Load from Academic Programs** **Catalog**

**SEMESTER CREDIT LOAD**

All undergraduate programs of study require a minimum of 120 credits. Most programs are designed so that a student starting a program as a freshman may finish it in 8 semesters by satisfactorily completing an average of 15 credits a semester. In practice, students usually carry from 12 to 18 credits a semester depending on personal circumstances and the chosen program of study. Students with less than a 2.50 grade–point average (GPA) the preceding semester should not enroll for more than 15 or 16 credits except when required by the specific program. Only under unusual circumstances will a student be permitted to carry more than 20 credits.

A student with less than satisfactory academic performance may be required to take a reduced credit load as a condition of continued registration in the University.

### **Full Time Students**

Students must carry at least 12 credits a semester in order to:

1. Participate in intercollegiate athletics.
2. Qualify for the Dean's List for the semester.
3. Qualify for most scholarships, awards, and financial aids. Most of these are limited to undergraduate students carrying at least 12 credits a semester excluding credits for any course carried as a visitor. Students should determine the specific requirements from the appropriate agency or contact the Office of Financial Aid.
4. Be certified in full-time status to loan agencies and other external entities.

Students participating in authorized forty hour/week internships or cooperative work programs are considered full time for all the purposes listed above.