

## Memorandum

To: Council on Academic Affairs

From: Jeff Stowell, Professor and Josh Norman, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

Date: August 24, 2021

### Summary:

This memo serves as a request to change to our current catalog language from requiring 42 residency hours to 30 residency hours for the Fall 2022 semester.

The proposed change is as follows:

### **(Current) Requirements for the Bachelor's degree**

To achieve a baccalaureate degree<sup>1</sup>, the student must:

1. Successfully complete the General Education Requirements detailed in the "General Education" section, including the senior seminar or Study Abroad Capstone.<sup>2</sup>
2. Successfully complete one of the degree programs listed in detail in the "Majors and Minors" section, and attain a minimum GPA of 2.00 in his/her major area. A GPA of at least 2.65 both cumulative and in the major is required for graduation from a teacher education program. Other curricula may also require a cumulative GPA higher than 2.0 for acceptance to the major and/or graduation. Consult the catalog description for specific information.
3. Successfully complete a minimum of 12 semester hours in residence in courses applicable to the GPA in his/her major discipline.
4. Successfully complete at least 40 semester hours in upper-division courses (3000-4000 numbered courses).<sup>3</sup>
5. Earn a minimum of ~~42~~ 30 semester hours in residence with a minimum of ~~32~~ 30 in the junior and senior years, 12 of which must be in residence during the senior year.<sup>4</sup>

1 Requirements differ for the B.A. in General Studies. See "General Studies Degree Program" in this catalog.

2 Because the terminal year is taken off-campus in cooperative programs, students completing Engineering, Physics with Engineering Physics Option, and Clinical Laboratory Science will not be required to take a Senior Seminar or Study Abroad Capstone.

3 Courses from a community college or other two-year institution will not count in the 40 semester hours of upper-division credit.

4 Exceptions to the residency policy are as follows: Cooperative degree majors (i.e. Engineering, Physics with Engineering Physics Option - 38 semester hours; Nursing majors - 25 semester hours; Organizational Development majors - 25 semester hours.

5 Students must have completed two years in a single foreign language in high school with an average grade of “C” or better for the two years’ work in order to have previously satisfied this requirement. The foreign language requirement is waived for the Organizational Development and Nursing programs.

**Problem:**

EIU’s residency requirements can make it difficult for transfer students to graduate in a timely manner even after meeting all other major and graduation requirements. Compared to our Illinois peer institutions, EIU’s residency requirements are less transfer-friendly.

School	Residency hours
UIC	60
UIUC	60
EIU	42
SIUC	42
CSU	30
ISU*	30
NEIU	30
NIU	30
UIS	30
SIUE	30
WIU	30
GSU	24

\* 30 of last 60 hrs

**Proposed Solutions to the Problem:**

Lower the EIU residency hour requirement (currently 42 hrs) to 30 hrs.

**Rationale:**

Thirty (30) residency hours is what is required by most of our peer institutions. Aligning with the majority will make us more competitive in the College Search process. Currently, 8 out of 12 institutions have a lower residency requirement than EIU. This difference could affect a prospective transfer student’s College Choice process and deter them from choosing EIU.

Transfer students with many transfer credits are looking for shortest time-to-degree completion. Reduction in these requirements could shorten the time to graduation for transfer students. At the time of graduation from EIU, a considerable proportion of transfer students (13%) have transferred in more than 78 credits (see Appendix 1), resulting in additional academic requirements that can extend time to graduation.

According to [HLC policy](#), 30 hours in residency is the recommended minima. This change in policy would also create consistency in our policy across student degree levels, aligning with our current post-baccalaureate degree requirements.

# Appendix 1:

