Academic Standards Committee
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Business Online Completion Degree Program Residency Requirement

Proposal

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As part of the University initiative, the College launched accelerated online completion degree programs this year, largely targeted to transfer students and degree completers. With these new program formats now in place, we need to ensure our policies explicitly support compliance with the requirements of our accrediting body (AACSB).

AACSB standards require that *more than 50% of the business-discipline coursework (major courses, required business courses, and business electives) be completed at the degree-granting institution*. Meaning transfer business coursework must be less than half.

While this has not created issues historically, the new completion pathways make it important to convey the business-specific residency requirement to ensure ongoing compliance with our accreditors.

Proposed wording:

Business Credit Residency Requirement (WCBA)
Students in WCBA undergraduate business majors must complete at least 50% of the business credit hours required for the degree in residence at Youngstown State University.

Business credit hours include the required business tool, business core, major requirements, and business electives; general education and non-business courses are excluded from this calculation.

This WCBA requirement is in addition to the university-wide residency requirements outlined in the Graduation Requirements section of the Undergraduate Catalog, including the requirement that the final 30 semester hours of the baccalaureate degree be completed at YSU.

Background

2+2 transfer students were not a concern that prompted putting the policy into the catalog. We expect the accreditation team to request more detailed information about transfer credit given the launch of our four Risepoint-recruited programs targeting 25+ with some college/no degree. The potential to violate the accreditation rule is when students transfer in with much more coursework completed, as is possible in the Risepoint recruitment and with the athletics transfer portal (which we've had happen this year).

2+2 OGTP fits within the policy

Using the transfer pathway (YNGS_Business.pdf), a 2+2 transfer student would still need to earn more than 50% of business credits here at YSU (see table below by major). After transferring in the set of business courses on the pathway in pre-major/beginning major, there remains 25CH in business tool/core plus 30 - 42 CH in major, for a total of 55 – 67 CH to complete at YSU, exceeding the 35-41CH minimum to meet the 50% of business coursework to complete at YSU. So we should have plenty of room for OGTP plus additional flexibility for more transfer credits.

Major	Total Business CH (Tool + Core + Major*)	Min. Business CH Needed at YSU (50% of Total)
Accounting	82	41
Business Administration	70	35
Business Analytics and Economics	70	35
Finance, Certified Financial Planner track	76	38
Finance, Financial Management track	73	37
Human Resource Management	70	35
International Business (ICP)	70	35
Management	70	35
Management, Supply Chain Management track	70	35
Marketing	73	37
Marketing, Professional Selling track	73	37

* For reference, BSBA curricula: business tool = 15CH, business core = 25 CH, major = 30-42 CH

Recommendation:

- Registrar will add the exact proposed language (with emphasis on bachelor's program) to the appropriate catalog section
- YSU will implement the policy as written based upon AACSB accreditation requirements
- No formal action by the Academic Standards Committee is required because policy is the consistent with both AACSB and ODHE requirements
- Recognition that this action can signal the need for only "Suenate reporting" on future policy developments are consistent with both external accreditation boards and ODHE.
  - For instance, the proposed guidelines for the Associate of Technical Studies (formerly known as the one-year option at ODHE) could follow a similar "report out" pathway.