

-----Original Message-----

From: Hoffman, John H

Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 4:45 PM

To: Nelsen, Robert S; Salamon, Myron B; Lou, Xinchou

Subject: FW: 120 hour rule (fwd)

Physics Department: Justification for 122 credit hours for the Bachelor's degrees.

Undergraduate Programs Degrees Offered:

Bachelor of Science: Credit hour requirement: 122

Bachelor of Arts: Credit hour requirement: 122

Incoming Freshmen are required to take RHET 1101, Oral Communications as an introductory course to College life. This course contributes 1 hour to the 18 hours of required electives

Transfer students are not required to take RHET 1101.

Justification:

Physics is a heavily mathematics oriented science that requires 16 credit hours of lower division math plus 4 hours of linear algebra that is strongly recommended before the student takes quantum mechanics. These courses coupled with the heavy physics requirement totals 62 credit hours in the major and prerequisite courses. Coupled with the 42 hour general education core and the required 18 hours of elective courses, including 6 hours of advanced electives, makes the graduation requirement 122 credit hours.

Other schools require more than 120 credit hours.

UNT requires 123 hours for a degree in Physics.

University of Houston requires 122 hours for a Physics Degree.

John H. Hoffman

Associate Dean, NS&M

University of Texas at Dallas

Richardson, TX 75083

972-883-2846 (voice)

972-883-2848 (fax)

jhoffman@utdallas.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: Xinchou Lou [mailto:xinchou@utdallas.edu]

Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 3:28 PM

To: Hoffman, John H

Subject: Fwd: 120 hour rule (fwd)

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Mon, 30 Oct 2006 08:41:49 -0600

From: Myron Salamon <salamon@utdallas.edu>

To: ali.hooshyar@utdallas.edu, "Ferraris, John P" <ferraris@utdallas.edu>,  
donald.gray@utdallas.edu, xinchou.lou@utdallas.edu,  
john.ferguson@utdallas.edu, ledbetter@utdallas.edu,  
inga.musselman@utdallas.edu

Subject: Fwd: 120 hour rule

Dear Colleagues:

Get your justifications ready! Certainly the U-Teach effort will be easy to get approved. How many other degree programs exceed 120 credit hours? Can you justify them?

Thanks,

Myron

The Legislature passed a bill authored by Zaffirini and Brown that requires that all undergraduate programs must be limited to 120 or less hours unless there are exceptional reasons for exceeding 120 hour cap. In cases, where we do exceed 120 hours, we must have written justifications. Hence this email.

Justifications can include accreditation requirements, certification requirements, or even best practices in the discipline. The justifications do not need to be more than a double spaced page-they just need to be convincing so that we can present them when asked by the Coordinating Board (they have not decided when they will ask yet).

The issue will probably come up tomorrow when President Daniel addresses the Senate Finance Committee-UT System at the request of Senator Zaffirini sent us an article that referenced the bill and asked us to prepare talking points for the President.

We need to put into place a simple process (suggested by the CB) to justify our programs. If you have any undergraduate degree programs that exceed 120 hours, please prepare a written justification that explicitly states the reasons for the exception to the law. These justifications will subsequently be sent to the Committee on Educational Policy for its formal approval.

Please send these justifications to me by November 15. I will forward them to CEP.  
Thank you.

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Robert S. Nelsen  
Associate Provost  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Box 830688 AD 23  
Richardson, TX 75083

Phone: 972-883-2273  
FAX: 972-883-2276  
<http://www.utdallas.edu/~nelsen>