

Abilene Christian University

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To: University General Education Council

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Subject: PEAC Activity Proposal

Background

Last year, the Provost and Executive Vice President convened a group to examine issues related to the decline of transfer students enrolling at ACU. Since 2008, the population of transfer students at ACU has declined:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Fall	182	173	184	191	149	88	116
Spr	67	59	75	55	41	42	48
Total	249	232	259	246	190	130	164

Another measure of transfer students is the percentage of total enrollments. We average 14% compared to 23% for universities in CCCU comparison data. Because the university's budget is based on a total number of students enrolled (entering Freshmen as well as transfers), the decline in this population has created additional pressure in meeting budgetary goals. Some of the decline in transfer students coincides with the adoption of the new General Education curriculum, and the increase in number of transfer students in 2013-14 is linked to implementing the initial recommendations made by the Transfer Taskforce last year.

A second consideration relates to changes in the Texas general education, the state-wide mandate for a 120-hour program, and an increasing number of \$10,000 baccalaureate degrees in Texas. None of these aspects were part of the original charge to the General Education Review Steering Committee in 2005. As we review generally accepted practices in Texas, we look for ways to provide an affordable, quality experience for our students.

Recommendation

The recommendation is to change the 3 credits of Kinesiology (currently PEAC 100 and two PEAC activity credits) to 2 credits (PEAC 100 and one PEAC activity credit or two PEAC activity credits). The "saved" hour would be included with the "General Education Selection" (currently two credits) to make a more traditional three-credit unit. This will facilitate the placement of credit for students who transfer a social science or humanities class, among the most frequently transferred courses, and that will facilitate their timely graduation.

Benchmarking

In making this recommendation, the committee looked at the wellness credits required in five selected degrees at peer institutions throughout Texas. The results are summarized here:

Institution	BBA Accounting	BMed Music Ed	BS Nursing	BS Chemistry	BA English
Baylor	2 (wellness + activity)	2 (activity)	0	4 (activity)	4 (activity)
Texas A&M	2 (activity)	2 (activity)	0	2 (activity)	2 (activity)
Texas Tech	0	0	0	2 (wellness)	2 (wellness)
U North TX	0	0	0	0	0

By making this change, ACU aligns itself better with the common practices of universities throughout the state. This change will benefit our transfer students as well as students who enter as freshmen since they will be able to fill the General Education Selection with a traditional 3-hour course instead of seeking 1- and 2-hour courses or having 1-hr of credit over their required hours.