

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Graduate Studies and Research
Office of the Dean

TO: Michael Harris
Interim Associate Vice President
Academic Affairs

DATE: 5-8-00

FROM: Robert Holkeboer
Dean

RE: Graduate School Policy Change: Maximum Registration Hours

On Friday, April 14, the Graduate Council recommended approval of the following Graduate School policy limiting the number of hours for which graduate students can register. I concur with this recommendation and am forwarding to you the proposed language for divisional input. Following divisional review and approval, please add the new policy text to the Graduate Catalog.

PROPOSED POLICY: Graduate students may register for no more than 15 graduate or undergraduate credit hours in the fall or winter semesters and for no more than 9 hours in the spring or summer terms. Students who wish to register for more hours than the stated maximum must petition the Graduate Dean to waive the limit.

Current policy allows students to register for up to 20 hours in fall or winter, and for up to 12 hours in spring or summer. In 1995 the policy was changed, increasing the maximum number of hours from 15 to 20. The purpose of the 1995 change, according to former Graduate Dean Ronald E. Goldenberg, was to increase credit-hour production. Instead, the policy has had the effect of allowing students to over-enroll in order to insure that they will get the courses they want, with the result that some sections appear to be filled when they are not. Thus, the net effect of the generous maximum hours policy has been to reduce enrollment when empty seats could not be filled.

Reducing the maximum enrollment to 15 credit hours is not likely to inhibit drop/add activity because, on the day a student drops a course and adds a new one, his/her enrollment adds all credits together until the system "refreshes" itself overnight and the drop hours are removed the next day.

The proposed 9 credit hours for spring and summer would allow a student to register for 6 hours and complete a 3-credit-hour drop/ add. Note that full-time enrollment status in fall or winter requires enrollment in a minimum of 8 credit hours.

Reducing the number of credits for which graduate students may register will encourage them to prioritize their choices and stick with them. The net effect for the Division of Academic Affairs will be more efficient utilization of available spaces and higher credit-hour production.

C: Patrick Melia
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