

Residency Requirements

Charge AA 7 2017-18

Review RIT Policy D 2.0 ... and modify as needed in order to clarify/update the amount of transfer credit allowable for an undergraduate degree.

Relevant current policy, Policy D02.0

<https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/d020>

AAC does not recommend any changes to Policy D2.0.

AAC does recommend change to Policy D12.0 governing residency.

Relevant current policy, Policy D12.0

<https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/d120>

- Policy D 12, Section II.C, Part of Graduation Requirements

A minimum of 30 credit hours shall be successfully completed in residence at the university in the college granting the degree (inclusive of service courses). If the student has successfully completed 30 credit hours in residence, a petition may be submitted to the dean to study 10 credit hours in absentia in the final year of the degree; at a minimum, 20 of the final 30 credit hours are to be completed in residence.

- Essentially, two parts

1. A minimum of 30 credit hours.
2. ...at a minimum, 20 of the final 30 credit hours are to be completed in residence.

Our philosophy

- Philosophy
 - Add clarity.
 - Simplify.
 - No significant changes.
 - Maintain flexibility for the degree granting unit to determine which courses count towards the minimum residency requirement.
 - Maintain the authority of the degree granting unit, which is fully capable and obligated, to ensure the integrity of their degree.

Our recommendation:

- Modification to existing policy
 - Use a percentage of the degree requirement rather than 30 credit hours to broaden applicability to Associate and Bachelor UG degrees.
 - Eliminate requirement for 20 of 30 final credit hours being RIT courses. This helps SOIS, students wishing to study abroad, as well as dual degree programs(BS/MD, BS/Ph.D).

Our recommendation:

- Rewrite Policy D12 to read:

A minimum of 25% of the total semester credit hours required for the degree shall consist of successfully completed RIT courses. The degree-granting program shall decide which specific courses and how many total semester credit hours shall count to satisfy this requirement.

Changes

CURRENT POLICY	NEW POLICY
30 hours at RIT, minimum	25% of credit hours at RIT, minimum
20 of final 30 hours at RIT, minimum	At discretion of degree-granting unit

Not changing

The current policy for evaluating credits for transfer (per Dr. Kristen Waterstram-Rich):

Evaluation of External Courses

All courses (GE or not) are sent to the department that "owns" that course. So, for example, a sociology course would be sent to Anthropology and Sociology to determine if there is a match. If the course is a biology course, it would be sent to the School of Life Sciences to determine if there is a match, and so forth. If there is a matching course here at RIT, and if the course with which it matches already has GE status, then the incoming course receives the GE status and attributes (perspectives) of the same course here.

If there is NO match, then the course is then sent to the Faculty Associate to the Provost for General Education and the CLA Dean's office (currently Elizabeth Hane and Andy Herbert) for determining if the course is GE and whether it should carry perspective status. We work with Rachel Scott in the registrar's office, who puts the courses into a database.

Students are allowed to appeal our decision by providing more information (syllabus, assignments, etc.).

The Recommendation and the existing policy

- **Recommended Policy D12**

A minimum of 25% of the total semester credit hours required for the degree shall consist of successfully completed RIT courses. The degree-granting program shall decide which specific courses and how many total semester credit hours shall count to satisfy this requirement.

- **Existing Policy D12, Section II.C**

A minimum of 30 credit hours shall be successfully completed in residence at the university in the college granting the degree (inclusive of service courses). If the student has successfully completed 30 credit hours in residence, a petition may be submitted to the dean to study 10 credit hours in absentia in the final year of the degree; at a minimum, 20 of the final 30 credit hours are to be completed in residence.

D12.0.II [Current]

- 1 A minimum of 30 credit hours shall be successfully completed in residence at the university in the
- 2 college granting the degree (inclusive of service courses). If the student has successfully completed
- 3 30 credit hours in residence, a petition may be submitted to the dean to study 10 credit hours in
- 4 absentia in the final year of the degree; at a minimum, 20 of the final 30 credit hours are to be
- 5 completed in residence.

Deletions

- 1 ~~A minimum of 30 credit hours shall be successfully completed in residence at the university in the~~
- 2 ~~college granting the degree (inclusive of service courses). If the student has successfully completed~~
- 3 ~~30 credit hours in residence, a petition may be submitted to the dean to study 10 credit hours in~~
- 4 ~~absentia in the final year of the degree; at a minimum, 20 of the final 30 credit hours are to be~~
- 5 ~~completed in residence.~~

New Text

- 1 A minimum of 25% of the total semester credit hours required for the degree shall consist of
- 2 successfully completed RIT courses. The degree-granting program shall decide which specific
- 3 courses and how many total semester credit hours shall count to satisfy this requirement.

Background Information

Relevant current policy, Policy D02.0

<https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/d020>

- Policy D 2, Section 1.A, Transfer Credit
Under no circumstances can a recipient of a two-year associate's degree from another institution receive more than two years' transfer credit for that degree. However, applicable courses successfully completed beyond the associate's degree at the upper division or equivalent level may transfer to the student's intended program. RIT residency requirements must be satisfied. (**See Policy D.12**)
- AAC does not recommend any changes to Policy D2.0.

Transfer credit basics

<https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/registrar/transfer-credit>

- RIT awards transfer credit for courses completed at other regionally accredited colleges and universities only.
- Transfer credit is evaluated by the degree granting unit and the College of Liberal Arts.
- Transfer credit at the undergraduate level will only be granted for course work completed with a grade of "C" or above.
- Regardless of the total amount of transfer credit awarded, a minimum of 30 semester credit hours needs to be completed at RIT in the college granting the degree for Associate and Baccalaureate degree candidates.

SOIS

SOIS is helping students complete their degrees when they have left RIT but were close to completion. Their effort requires structuring individualized programs which may include courses not specifically “in residence” at RIT. They require greater flexibility than the current policy implies.

SOIS Executive Director James Hall enthusiastically supported our recommendation saying “Perfect. We love it.”