



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

III-7.20 - POLICY ON UNDERGRADUATE GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSFERABILITY BETWEEN USM INSTITUTIONS

(Approved by the Board of Regents June 10, 1994; Technical amendments by the Board, December 12, 2014)

Among the benefits to students inherent in attending a University System of Maryland institution is the opportunity to move beyond the walls of the original admitting institution to take advantage of the full resources of the USM. In some instances, students may elect to transfer to another institution within the System. Such transfer should be possible without loss of credit, redundant course work and consequent unnecessary cost.

In recognition of the principle that the appropriate application of general education course credit towards degree completion enhances the efficiency of the transfer process, USM institutions will facilitate students' inter-institutional transfer by allowing them to use completed general education requirements at one System institution to meet general education requirements at any System degree-granting institution, as specified below.

I. Students who complete general education requirements which include course work in each of the areas of a) arts and humanities, b) English composition, c) social and behavioral sciences, d) mathematics and e) biological or physical sciences at a University System of Maryland degree-granting institution shall be considered to have completed general education requirements at any University System of Maryland degree-granting institution to which they transfer. For the purposes of this policy, the distribution of general education may be covered using interdisciplinary courses.

II. Students who do not complete their general education requirements at a University System of Maryland degree-granting institution before transferring to another degree-granting institution in the System, shall be required to complete the general education requirements of the System institution to which they transfer.

A. Transferable courses defined as meeting the general education requirements at the sending institution shall be applicable to the general education requirements of the receiving institution according to the distribution requirements of the receiving institution.

B. The student will be notified in writing at or before transfer, which courses are transferable, and which of the receiving institution's general education requirements are satisfied by specific transferable courses.

III. System institutions may require as a condition of graduation completion of special courses beyond those designated as general graduation requirements and major program requirements. A student transferring from another System institution may be required to complete no more than twelve hours of such course work. Examples of such courses are new student orientation, speech, foreign language, physical education, health, upper-division writing, culture and diversity, and social/ethical/historical foundations. A student transferring from another System institution must complete such requirements regardless of whether or not the student has completed the general education requirements prior to transfer.

IV. The determination of the major program requirements for a baccalaureate degree, including courses in the major taken in the lower division, shall be the responsibility of the faculty of the institution awarding the degree. The receiving institution may set major requirements, which fulfill general education requirements simultaneously.