

UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

Current Language

Graduate Credit Option For Undergraduate Students

Although courses numbered 500 and above are intended for graduate study, senior undergraduate students may receive undergraduate credit in such courses. Students must obtain advance approval from the course instructor and their college academic advisor.

To enroll in a graduate-level course for graduate credit, an undergraduate must first meet the following requirements:

- 1 Be within 10 credit hours of earning the baccalaureate degree;
- 2 Have an overall cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0; and
- 3 Enroll in no more than 9 credit hours of graduate credit during that semester (6 credit hours during summer session).

When these requirements are met, the student must complete a Graduate Credit Authorization card, signed by the instructor, their college advisement office and the Office of Graduate Studies and submit it to the Records and Registration Office. The courses taken apply toward an advanced degree after completion of the baccalaureate. The same course cannot be counted for both graduate and undergraduate credit.

Proposed change

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When these requirements are met, the student must complete a Graduate Credit Authorization card, signed by the instructor, their college advisement office and the Office of Graduate Studies and submit it to the Records and Registration Office. The courses taken apply toward an advanced degree after completion of the baccalaureate. For students with a minimum of 3.5 overall cumulative grade point average, up to 6 credit hours can be shared for both graduate and undergraduate credit with approval of the department's graduate advisor. A grade of B or better must be obtained in the courses in order for them to be accepted for graduate credit.

Reasons for Modifying Graduate Credit Option for Undergraduate Students

It is proposed that that well qualified senior undergraduate students be allowed to count up to 6 credit hours for both undergraduate and graduate credit. The change is that hours can be counted for both graduate and undergraduate credit, which is currently prohibited. The students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 at the time they enroll in the graduate courses and obtain a grade of B or better in the graduate courses. If they obtain less than a B in the courses the credits can only be used either at the undergraduate or graduate level but not both, which is the current policy. If a student obtains less than a B in a graduate course it would most likely only be used for undergraduate credit.

The proposal is intended to encourage excellent undergraduate students to enroll in graduate programs at UNM rather than pursue graduate study at other universities. They would have the ability to either finish their coursework requirement sooner or they might be able to take other graduate courses without adversely affecting their time to degree. The best qualified students will be encouraged to count 6 credit hours in graduate courses at the baccalaureate level in the first instance with no obligation to apply them at the graduate level unless they are admitted to a UNM graduate program. The change in policy will not reduce the rigor of a graduate degree since the ability of the student to count six hours at both the graduate and undergraduate levels will be under the control of the department's graduate advisor. It is assumed that the qualifying graduate classes will be germane to the student's graduate course of studies as determined by the graduate advisor.