

Policy on Distance-Learning Courses

Recommended Revision

~~A revised policy governing the use of distance-learning courses became effective July 1, 2014.~~ The ~~regulations~~ [policy governing the use of distance-learning courses](#) applies to all new and continuing full-time and part-time degree-seeking students, and they refer to Carolina Courses Online (CCO), Summer School, and other for-credit UNC–Chapel Hill courses offered completely via similar modalities. The regulations do not apply to coursework taken prior to matriculation as degree-seeking students.

The following policies apply to distance-learning courses:

1. The maximum number of credit hours, all of which must be designated UNC–Chapel Hill, that can be counted toward an undergraduate degree in the College of Arts and Sciences is 24. There can be no exceptions to this upper limit.
2. First-semester, first-year students may not enroll in for-credit online courses unless unusual circumstances prevail, nor may first-year students take an online course in the summer prior to matriculation.
3. Full-time undergraduate students may enroll in a maximum of one for-credit online course (~~currently CCO~~) per regular semester (after the first semester, if they are a first-year student) and a maximum of two for-credit online courses per summer [session \(courses offered over the full summer would count in both Summer Session I and Summer Session II\)](#).
4. Degree-seeking students who are not enrolled may take a maximum of two for-credit online courses in a regular semester or summer.
5. No more than two for-credit online courses ~~in any one department, curriculum, or professional school~~ may count toward a major ([core requirement](#)) or minor in the College of Arts and Sciences.
6. Self-Paced courses cannot count toward a degree in the College of Arts and Sciences, ~~other than in exceptional circumstances.~~
7. It is the responsibility of the Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, in consultation with the Associate Dean and Director of the Academic Advising Program, to determine whether students in unusual circumstances warrant an exception to these policies.

[Distance-learning courses offered at UNC-Chapel Hill are identified with the following section numbers in Connect Carolina:](#)

- [956 – 974 \(Departmental Distance Learning\)](#)
- [975 – 989 \(Friday Center Distance Learning\)](#)
- [990 – 994 \(Friday Center Distance Learning Carolina Courses Online\)](#)
- [01W – 09W \(On-Campus Web Delivery Courses\)](#) [added during 9/21/2016 meeting]

[This Policy is maintained by the College of Arts and Sciences.](#)

Revised: September 20, 2016; October 29, 2013

Comments:

- Prior to July 1, 2014, summer CCO courses were offered using a “long format” (11-weeks) that included both summer sessions. Now they also offer 5-week courses, so the limit should apply to each summer session (Summer Session I and Summer Session II).
- Particularly for interdisciplinary programs (such as global studies), the current wording can be misinterpreted in that more than two online courses may count in the major provided they come from different departments. The intent is to limit the number of online courses that may count toward a major or minor, regardless of the department, curriculum, or professional school offering the course.
- Removing the phrase “other than in exceptional circumstance” from the self-paced rule to avoid receiving petitions/requests from students that are always denied by the Associate Dean and Director of the Academic Advising Program. Item #7 includes a statement about exceptions, which will remain in the policy.

Effective Date:

The changes will be applied to the 2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog and published June 1, 2017.

- The CCO limit on summer courses will begin with Summer Session I 2017 (including Maymester).