

November 5, 2018

Administrative Boards of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences
UNC College of Arts & Sciences

Board Members:

I am writing to respectfully request a revision of the policy on distance learning for degree seeking students at UNC-Chapel Hill. Currently, students are permitted to use distance courses toward degree completion only if those courses originate from UNC-CH. UNC Online now presents an opportunity for our students to access online and language courses from other UNC institutions, but an adjustment to local policy is required in order for us to participate.

UNC Online, a service provided by the University of North Carolina System Office, provides registration for online or videoconference courses for degree-seeking students at UNC constituent institutions. UNC-CH is the last system institution to join UNC Online, and is programmed to do so in Spring 2019.

UNC Online is separate and distinct from the current Interinstitutional Program. Some processes will vary, and the group of institutions are different in each program.

The language exchange is a collaborative effort of faculty across the UNC System. UNC-CH has been until now unable to participate in the language exchange since the exchange operates as a subset of UNC Online from a technical and logistical perspective.

In order for UNC-CH students to participate in the language exchange and UNC Online, an adjustment to academic policy is necessary (see next page for suggested policy changes).

Students who enroll in courses at other institutions via UNC Online will have a placeholder course on their UNC-CH schedule for tuition billing and financial aid calculation purposes. Students pay tuition for those credits at their home institution. Courses will appear as transfer credit on the UNC-CH transcript, using exiting processes and policies for awarding transfer credit.

On behalf of the project team, I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Regards,

Jessica Brinker
Interim Director, Friday Center for Continuing Education

Distance-Learning Courses

The 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 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 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.
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.