UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD
CAMPUS SENATE AY 2010/2011
RESOLUTION 41-8

Minimum Requirements for Accepting Undergraduate Degrees Granted from Degree-Consolidating Institutions

WHEREAS, some institutions consolidate credits earned from multiple institutions; and
WHEREAS, students who have earned consolidated baccalaureate degrees are increasingly seeking admission to graduate degree programs in the United States; and
WHEREAS, UIS values credits earned through regionally accredited institutions; and
WHEREAS, UIS requires undergraduate residency; and
WHEREAS, occupational hours are not transferrable to UIS outside the credit for prior learning program; and
WHEREAS, admissions policies at the campus level serve as the minimum screening criteria, although graduate programs may have admissions policies more stringent;

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that University of Illinois at Springfield Campus Senate approves the Minimum Requirements for Accepting Undergraduate Degrees Granted from Degree-Consolidating Institutions.

New catalog copy:
UIS does not typically accept degrees from institutions that primarily consolidate credits from multiple institutions. For a consolidated degree to be considered as part of admissions application, the degree must:
• Consolidate only credits from regionally accredited institutions,
• Include a minimum of 30 credit hours of undergraduate residency at the degree-awarding institution, and
• Consolidate only credit hours considered as transferable credit hours; no occupational hours shall be part of the consolidated degree.

Rationale:
Graduate Council has reviewed the issues in accepting undergraduate degrees from degree-consolidating institutions. Excelsior College (formerly Regents College) is best known for this practice; however, other institutions (e.g. Northern Illinois University) have a reputation for providing this service. Although degree-consolidating institutions may be regionally accredited institutions, practices by some may stretch generally recognized best practices for awarding degrees. For example, such institutions may give credit to occupational courses (e.g., CEU bearing work) and for hours earned at non-regionally accredited institutions. They may consolidate credits without any residency required.

Graduate Council worked with the Office of Admissions and the Faculty Appointed to the Office of Graduate Education and Research to identify best practices for accepting degrees awarded by degree consolidating institutions. It was determined that consolidated degrees should, at minimum, include the following:

• Credit hours consolidated should all come from regionally accredited institutions, and
• Credit hours consolidated will be transferable hours and will not be occupational hours (e.g. CEU), and
• Degree consolidating institution must require a minimum of 30 residential hours at the institution awarding the degree.

Nothing in this policy addition should be construed as altering the role of graduate program decision-making in graduate admissions at UIS. Graduate programs retain responsibility for setting their degree and certificate program admission requirements and for making program admission decisions, and it is expected that faculty making graduate admission decisions will review required application materials, including the certified Diploma Supplement, to ensure that program-specific admission requirements are met.