UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY BILL 20-4
A BILL TO ESTABLISH A POLICY FOR ADMISSION OF STUDENTS WITH
45 TO 60 SEMESTER HOURS OF LOWER DIVISION CREDIT

April 26, 1991  Approved as amended by the University Assembly

Admission of students with 45 semester hours of Lower Division Credit.

Individuals who have completed at least 45 semester hours (60 quarter hours) of lower-division credit, but less than 60 semester hours, may be admitted to SSU for the purpose of taking courses leading toward their baccalaureate major. Such students must have completed the currently required lower-division English composition course and 12 additional semester hours of the General Education Requirements prior to admission and must have an cumulative average grade of “B” or better for all previous collegiate-level course work. Additionally, consistent with existing SSU admissions policy, such students must complete lower division course work required by SSU programs. Further, students are encouraged to complete their associate in arts or associate in science degrees at the lower division college.

Rationale:

In the past, SSU could not normally admit students who had completed less than 60 semester hours of college work, although these students could be admitted to other baccalaureate institutions. This has prevented students with less than 60 hours from transferring to SSU from other baccalaureate institutions, and has also prevented qualified sophomores at community colleges from beginning upper-division coursework at SSU while completing their associate’s degree; placing them at a disadvantage compared to students in four-year institutions who may begin study toward their baccalaureate major while completing lower-division general education and elective courses.

In seeking Illinois Board of Higher Education approval to admit students who have completed less than 60 semester hours of lower-division work, SSU had three major goals:

1. To place SSU on a “level playing field” with other baccalaureate institutions in competition for students with between 45 and 60 semester hours.
2. To better serve qualified sophomore community college students who are ready to begin study at the upper-division level.
3. To maintain and improve cooperative relationships with the lower-division colleges that have been SSU’s major feeder institutions.

An important group of students SSU wishes to serve by these modified admission requirements is re-entering adult students who have completed 45 semester hours or more of college coursework, but have not recently attended a college or university. These students, whose goal is a baccalaureate degree, have reached an age or level of experience where they would prefer to begin baccalaureate study by being allowed admission to SSU, they have the opportunity to remain in their home community and to work directly toward their baccalaureate degree.

A second group of students includes those with 45 or more semester hours who wish to transfer to SSU from four-year institutions, or from community colleges other than SSU’s historically important feeder institutions (LLCC, RCC, ICC and SCI). SSU’s intent is to develop an admission policy for these students which is no more restrictive than the policy that would apply to them if they were seeking admission to other baccalaureate institutions.

A current difficulty in serving these students is that those who come from outside of the Springfield area must pay out-of-district tuition if they wish to enroll concurrently in LLCC to complete lower-division prerequisites for their majors. Because SSU has no plans to offer lower-division courses, SSU would like to cooperate with LLCC to work out an arrangement which would allow all such students to attend LLCC without paying out-of-district fees, and also to explore the possibility of offering some LLCC courses on the SSU campus.

The third group of students is “traditional” full-time students, enrolled in LLCC, RCC, ICC or SCI, who would benefit from being able to begin study at the upper-division level before completing their associate’s degree. The objectives of the proposed policy are to allow such students admission to SSU, while at the same time encouraging them to complete all prerequisites for their majors and most general education courses at their lower-division college. Its objective is to encourage cooperation with the community colleges; not to compete with them for students.

Issues precipitated by passage of this policy, including potential modifications in admission requirements and general education requirements, will be addressed by governance, in cooperation with administration, beginning in 1991-92. As written, this policy is intended to have no effect on existing alternative admissions policies.