

## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRANSFER POLICIES IN THE  
ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION SECTION OF THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018***

Dean Linda Hicke in the College of Natural Sciences has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following changes to the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2016-2018*. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of *general* interest to more than one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the changes on February 4, 2016, and forwarded the proposal to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with UT System.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by February 24, 2016.



Hillary Hart, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council



**Rationale:** The Office of Admissions reviews performance in mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics courses without requiring specific courses within these fields of study.

#### The Entry-level Major

- a. Relocate section in front of Internal Transfer and External Transfer.  
**Rationale:** Both the Internal and External Transfer sections refer to entry-level major status. Moving the description of the entry-level major improves the descriptions of the transfer processes.
- b. Remove the paragraph regarding admission to the entry-level major in Computer Science. Add a paragraph stating that students admitted through the freshman admission and external transfer may change from one entry-level major to another, except for computer science and neuroscience.  
**Rationale:** In the past, students admitted to the College of Natural Sciences were permitted to change from one entry-level major to another. This has become untenable in computer science and neuroscience due to the growth of interest in these fields of study. The departments of Computer Science and Neuroscience are working closely with the college and the Office of Admissions to meet target enrollments into the entry-level major.

#### Adding a Simultaneous Major or Changing Majors

- a. Add a statement that students admitted through internal transfer may not add a simultaneous major in the college unless admitted through internal transfer.  
**Rationale:** Upon instituting the internal transfer policy, the college received questions from students about the possibility of transferring to other entry-level majors after admission. The college is closing a potential loophole that students who want admission into majors that are high in demand might employ – first, to be admitted to a major that is not high in demand, and second, to add the high demand major as a simultaneous major.

### 3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES (Please check all that apply)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges  | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Flags  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) |   |

### 4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes  No   
 If yes, then how?
- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes  No   
 If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes  No   
 If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes  No   
 If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

**If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.**

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: **No**

**If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:**

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? If yes, explain: **No**

## 5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Dean approval date: November 12, 2015; David Vanden Bout, Associate Dean

### PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

#### Admission Policies of the College

[no changes]

#### Freshman Admission

[no changes]

#### The Entry-Level Major

All new freshman and transfer students are admitted into the College of Natural Sciences in an entry-level major. After completing a specified set of entry-level mathematics and science courses required for the degree with a grade of at least C- in each course, students are admitted to the major and option they plan to pursue unless the major or option has special admission-to-major requirements.

~~Students who wish to pursue computer science but who were not admitted to the entry-level major by the Office of Admissions must have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 in residence at the University to transfer into the entry-level major. If a student completes transfer courses approved as substitutes for the entry-level courses, he or she may also count the grades of the approved substitutes toward the minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 for admission into the entry-level major. A student who is not admitted may submit an appeal to the department for consideration.~~

Students admitted into the College of Natural Sciences through freshman admission or external transfer may change from one entry-level major into the other, with the exception of the computer science and neuroscience entry-level majors. The computer science and neuroscience entry-level majors are restricted to students who are admitted by the Office of Admissions or through internal transfer.

#### Internal Transfer

Students enrolled in other colleges or schools at the University may apply by April 15 to be considered for admission into an entry-level major in the following fall semester. If April 15 falls on a weekend or an official university holiday, the application is due on the next business day.

Admission to the college is limited and competitive. To be competitive, students should:

1. Complete a minimum of twenty-four semester hours in residence
2. Achieve a grade point average of at least 3.00 in residence
3. Complete one of the following courses in residence with a grade of at least B-: Mathematics 408C, 408D, 408K, 408L, 408M, 408N, 408S, or Statistics and Data Sciences 302.
4. Complete two of the following courses in residence with grades of at least B-: Biology 311C, Chemistry 301, 302, Physics 303K, and 303L, or majors level equivalents.

- Submit an essay describing how the intended major would impact achievement of the educational and career goals.

~~Students may also submit evidence of scientific achievements in the form of a resume or other document, if desired.~~

~~Students admitted through internal transfer who wish to change to a different major in the college must apply through internal transfer and be accepted in order to change majors.~~

### **External Transfer**

Students enrolled at other universities who wish to enter the College of Natural Sciences must apply for transfer admission through the Office of Admissions. Students must meet transfer admission deadlines and requirements.

~~Admission to the college is limited and competitive. To be competitive, students should:~~

~~The college seeks applicants with excellent past performance in mathematics and science courses. Admission to the college is limited and competitive, and varies each year based on the applicant pool. Meeting all of the following criteria does not guarantee admission, and failing to meet all criteria does not eliminate applicants from consideration. All students are welcome to apply.~~

~~To be competitive, it is recommended that students:~~

- ~~Complete or be in progress to complete a minimum of thirty transferable semester hours when submitting the application.~~
- ~~Achieve a grade point average of at least 3.00 3.25.~~
- ~~Complete a calculus course with a grade of at least B-. Complete one of the following courses with a grade of at least B : Mathematics 408C, 408D, 408K, 408L, 408M, 408N, 408S, and Statistics and Data Sciences 302.~~
- ~~Complete a minimum of nine semester hours in first year mathematics and science coursework with grades of A and B, including, for example, any combination of biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics. Complete two of the following courses with grades of at least B : Biology 311C, Chemistry 301, CH 302, Computer Science 311, 312, Physics 303K, and 303L, or majors level equivalents.~~
- ~~Utilize all aspects of the admissions application, including essays, resume, and optional letters of recommendation to express interest in the intended academic and career path in the sciences. Submit an essay describing how the intended major would impact achievement of the educational and career goals.~~

~~Students who apply to the College of Natural Sciences with fewer than thirty transferable hours completed will be considered on a space-available basis after the thirty hours are complete.~~

~~The University of Texas prioritizes transfer students who have completed fewer than seventy semester hours and who are able to remain on track to complete a degree in four years, including time spent at previous institutions. Meeting all of the criteria does not guarantee admission. Students who do not meet all of the criteria are welcome to apply. Students may also submit evidence of scientific achievements in the form of a resume or other document, if desired.~~

~~Statistics regarding past admissions cycles are available at [cns.utexas.edu/students/future/external-transfer#transfer-statistics](https://cns.utexas.edu/students/future/external-transfer#transfer-statistics).~~

### **The Entry-Level Major**

~~All new freshman and transfer students are admitted into the College of Natural Sciences in an entry level major. After completing a specified set of entry level mathematics and science courses required for the degree with a grade of at least C in each course, students are admitted to the major and option they plan to pursue unless the major or option has special admission to major requirements.~~

~~Students who wish to pursue computer science but who were not admitted to the entry level major by the Office of Admissions must have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 in residence at the University to~~

~~transfer into the entry level major. If a student completes transfer courses approved as substitutes for the entry-level courses, he or she may also count the grades of the approved substitutes toward the minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 for admission into the entry level major. A student who is not admitted may submit an appeal to the department for consideration.~~

### **Adding a Simultaneous Major or Changing Majors**

Students interested in declaring a simultaneous major must first discuss the impact of the simultaneous major on their progress toward degree and develop a timely graduation plan with their academic advisers. Students ~~approved to declare~~ eligible to pursue a simultaneous major must follow the application procedure and meet admission requirements that have been established for the simultaneous major. At minimum, students must complete thirty semester hours of coursework in residence at the University. Students interested in changing majors must meet the entry-level or admission requirements of the major they wish to enter. Students admitted through internal transfer may not add a simultaneous major in the College of Natural Sciences unless they are admitted into the simultaneous major through internal transfer.