

Committee on Educational Policy

Policy for Enrollment in Greater Than 19 Units

Academic Senate regulation requires all students wishing to enroll in more than 19 units to receive college approval (6.1.2). Presently, these approvals are made individually, manually, and quarterly by the colleges.

The Committee on Educational Policy would like to expand student opportunity and responsibility by significantly automating this process. Students should be provided the freedom to craft their own challenging courses of study in pursuit of their academic goals. At the same time, students sometimes underestimate the time commitment that a course requires. Students should be fully aware that 3 hours of academic work per week is expected for each credit hour (UC Senate regulation 760 and Part 600 of the Federal Higher Education Act of 1965), and thus a 22-unit load would correspond to 66 hours of work each week.

6.1.2 An undergraduate student is permitted to carry fewer than 15 credit hours only after obtaining approval from the college provost or the provost's designee. Such approval does not confer full-time status on the student who does not meet the requirements of SCR 6.1.1. The privilege of carrying more than 19 credit hours is in general reserved for students with a 2.5 GPA or greater and otherwise requires approval from the provost of the college or the provost's designee. (Am 21 Feb 68, 9 Oct 85, 12 Feb 92, 30 Nov 22; CC 31 Aug 98; EC 1 Sept 77, 31 Aug 16)

Policy

1. In a student's first quarter enrollment in more than 19 units requires individual approval. Demonstrated excellence in prior undergraduate, AP, or IB coursework may be used as a metric of a student's preparedness.
2. After the first quarter, students with a cumulative UC Santa Cruz GPA of 2.5 may enroll in up to 22 units. Enrollment in more than 22 units requires individual approval.
3. Students with a UC Santa Cruz GPA below 2.5 need individual approval to enroll in greater than 19 units, and such approval may be denied.
4. Students may not enroll in greater than 19 units until all students have had the opportunity to enroll in 19 units, typically on the first day of instruction.
5. Students may enroll in up to 20 units of instruction in Summer Session without the need for individual approval, provided that units are distributed over summer quarter.¹

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy on June 14, 2006, revised January 4, 2023, and January 15, 2025.

¹ For example, a student who desires to enroll in four five-week, 5-credit summer-term courses, must register for two of these during session 1, and the other two during session 2. (This effectively places a 10-credit enrollment cap on each five-week summer session, consistent with the overall 20 unit summer term cap.) A student may enroll in any combination of five-week, eight-week or ten-week summer term courses, provided each five-week equivalent does not exceed 10 units. (An eight-week or ten-week summer session course of N units, for purposes of this calculation, would count as two consecutive five-week, N/2 unit equivalents, so that a 4 unit ten-week course, for example, would be treated as two consecutive 2 unit five-week courses.)