University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate
Committee on Educational Policy
(Final; Action)

EP.24.012 Establishing Minimum Hours for Undergraduate Concentrations

Background
A concentration is a specialized area of focus within a major field of study and is recognized on a student’s transcript. The Graduate College has a policy that a graduate concentration must consist of a minimum of 12 graduate hours of coursework at the 400- and 500-level. Currently, however, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign does not have a set minimum hour for undergraduate concentrations.

In reviewing the other two universities in the University of Illinois System, the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) defines Undergraduate Concentrations as “a minimum of nine or more hours that a student may take as part of a degree program.” Similarly, the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) defines concentrations as “a minimum of three related courses (a minimum of nine or more hours) that a student may take as part of a degree.”

Recommendation
In its statutory role of establishing general standards for all campus degrees and programs, the Senate should adopt the following policy for all undergraduate concentrations:

The minimum number of hours required for an undergraduate concentration is nine credit hours that a student may take as part of a degree program.

Educational Policy
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