**Proposal to Eliminate the 18/30 Units in Residence policy**

*Submitted by University Academic Advising Council (UAAC), 1/6/2020; approved with amendments by UGC Curriculum and Policies Subcommittee, 1/28/2020*

**Proposal Statement**

The University Academic Advising Council recommends the elimination of the 18/30 Units in Residence policy (see <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/units-residence>). The majority of program major and minor plans define minimum units in residence, and it is recommended that all plans be updated to address residency units.

For clarification, there is no recommendation to change the 30 units in residence requirement. A requirement that 18 of the 30 units in residence must be upper division units has been added, as indicated below.

| Existing Policy | Proposed Edit | Policy link |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **University Credit Requirement**  A minimum of 30 units of [University Credit](https://catalog.arizona.edu/definitions-key-terms#universitycredit) from The University of Arizona is required for the bachelor's degree. It is further required that 18 of the final 30 units offered toward the degree be University Credit. In other words, no more than 12 of the final 30 units to complete the degree may be credit-by-exam (i.e., CLEP, Special Examination for Credit), or transfer credit. Various departments have specific University Credit requirements for their majors, and students should consult individual [departmental information (link is external)](http://directory.arizona.edu/departments) sections for this information. | **University Credit Requirement**  A minimum of 30 units of [University Credit](https://catalog.arizona.edu/definitions-key-terms#universitycredit) from The University of Arizona is required for the bachelor's degree. Of those 30 units, 18 must be in Upper Division (300-400 level) coursework. ~~It is further required that 18 of the final 30 units offered toward the degree be University Credit. In other words, no more than 12 of the final 30 units to complete the degree may be credit-by-exam (i.e., CLEP, Special Examination for Credit), or transfer credit.~~ Various departments have specific University Credit requirements for their majors, and students should consult individual [departmental information (link is external)](http://directory.arizona.edu/departments) sections for this information. | <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/units-residence> |
| **University Credit Requirement**  A minimum of 30 units of [University Credit](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/credit-definitions) from The University of Arizona is required for the bachelor's degree. It is further required that 18 of the final 30 units offered toward the degree be University Credit. Various departments have specific University Credit requirements for their majors, and students should consult individual [departmental information (link is external)](http://directory.arizona.edu/departments) sections for this information.  **Upper-Division Unit Requirement**  The University of Arizona recognizes both breadth and depth of knowledge as important characteristics of a baccalaureate degree. To insure depth of study beyond introductory levels, the University has a general policy requiring students to complete a minimum of 42 units of upper-division course work for graduation. This requirement applies to students graduating under the 1991-93 catalog or any subsequent catalog. The special requirements of some academic programs may necessitate an exception to this requirement. Some degree programs require fewer than 42 units of upper-division credit. For current information, students should consult their advisors, the [department (link is external)](http://directory.arizona.edu/departments)which offers their major, or the [Academic Advisement Report (link is external)](https://uaccess.schedule.arizona.edu/psp/pubsaprd/UA_ADV_CATALOG/HRMS/h/?tab=DEFAULT) for their major to determine if their degree program may require fewer than 42 units of upper-division credit. | **University Credit Requirement**  A minimum of 30 units of [University Credit](https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/credit-definitions) from The University of Arizona is required for the bachelor's degree. Of those 30 units, 18 must be in Upper Division (300-400 level) coursework. ~~It is further required that 18 of the final 30 units offered toward the degree be University Credit.~~ Various departments have specific University Credit requirements for their majors, and students should consult individual [departmental information (link is external)](http://directory.arizona.edu/departments) sections for this information.  **Upper-Division Unit Requirement**  The University of Arizona recognizes both breadth and depth of knowledge as important characteristics of a baccalaureate degree. To insure depth of study beyond introductory levels, the University has a general policy requiring students to complete a minimum of 42 units of upper-division course work for graduation, including 18 units of University Credit. This requirement applies to students graduating under the 1991-93 catalog or any subsequent catalog. The special requirements of some academic programs may necessitate an exception to this requirement. Some degree programs require fewer than 42 units of upper-division credit. For current information, students should consult their advisors, the [department (link is external)](http://directory.arizona.edu/departments)which offers their major, or the [Academic Advisement Report (link is external)](https://uaccess.schedule.arizona.edu/psp/pubsaprd/UA_ADV_CATALOG/HRMS/h/?tab=DEFAULT) for their major to determine if their degree program may require fewer than 42 units of upper-division credit. | <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/graduation-grade-averages-and-credit-requirements> |

**Rationale**

Following is a summary of some of the issues with the current policy.

* Indeed, **18 of the final 30 units in residence is not calculated on the Advisement Report**. Students and advisors must calculate manually.
* Problems arise with this policy when students are nearing graduation learn that while they have 30 units in residence, the order in which test or transfer credit is completed and applied to the final 30 units, they may discover they have not satisfied that 18 of the final 30 units are in residence. Students are left to either take additional elective UA course work (at additional expense), file a general petition (difficult for May graduates since there are no petitions accepted during summer months), or delay their graduation.
* **This policy disproportionately affects AAS transfer students compared to other students, which means it affects adult, military, rural, and ethnically diverse students.** AAS transfer students are typically short the general education requirements they need when they transfer, and they are co-enrolled at both the community college and the UA to finalize their general education coursework (by design of the AAS to BAS 75/45 pathway defined by ABOR).
* The Department of Defense MOU and other military pathway agreements, such as the UA-ABC pathways from the CCAF, specifically ask about residency units and final units in residency policies. We’re one of a select number of universities qualifying for the AU-ABC pathways: One of the questions they ask is:

*Please confirm that a residency of not more than 25% of the degree’s credit requirement (30 SH) and no final year of residency will be required by your institution for degree completion. Also explain options for Airmen to complete the 25% required residency with your institution wen traditional classroom opportunities are not available with your institution.*

* To remain eligible for financial aid, students must transfer as soon as they complete their Associates degree regardless of whether their prerequisites and other requirements for their UA degree are complete. If students who are earning a BA degree elect to take 16 units of second language elsewhere – or – earns 16 units through successful completion of a CLEP exam, they have already violated 18/30.
* Study abroad in the senior year can be problematic if it’s not a UA credit bearing program or there is a change in credits that are transferred (i.e. planned for a 3-unit course, but it turned out to be 4 units).
* Geosciences is unable to offer enough enrollment for the required senior field camp meaning many students must transfer a 6-unit course in their final year.
* Problems are beginning to surface for micro campus students. Courses are offered on a rotating basis, so depending on a student’s start date, they may end up with a lighter load of UA classes in their final semester thus causing them to not meet the 18/30-unit requirement. There is no option for these students to take elective UA classes since they are not available to these students.