

The following information has been assembled to provide students, parents, faculty, staff, and the community-at-large with up-to-date information regarding the Ohio Dominican University's 4-3 credit hour conversion.

The conversion from four credit hours to three...

- Ohio Dominican University has revised its current course semester credit hour standard for undergraduate courses from four credit hours to three credit hours. Currently, the majority of courses are four semester credits and students must complete a minimum of 124 semester credit hours for a bachelor's degree.
- Ohio Dominican has revised the undergraduate curriculum to be based on a three credit hour standard. As a result, students will be required to complete a minimum of 120 semester credits for a bachelor's degree.
- Graduate courses are already utilizing a three credit hour standard, and thus are not affected by this change. Also exempt from any change is the university's accelerated degree program, LEAD.

The reason for the change...

Ohio Dominican has made this change to offer students the opportunity to enrich their degree programs and do so with greater flexibility.

- Ohio Dominican University has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools since 1934. The current four semester credit hour course standard has been in effect since 1970. Previous to this time, programs were offered under a three credit hour standard.
- In 1970, Ohio Dominican changed from the predominant three credit hour standard to a four credit hour standard to provide students the opportunity to study a discipline in greater depth. Through the years, especially in light of increasing requirements from professional accrediting bodies, greater breadth has been needed. This has led to an increase in credit hours for both major and general education programs. As a result, it has been difficult for students to double major or add multiple minors to their degree program. In some majors with extensive requirements, it has been difficult for students to complete the program in four years.

- The four credit hour standard also has deterred transfer students from completing their degree programs at our institution, especially when their most recent institution operated on a three credit hour system. So for example, when areas within ODU's general education program have required 12 credit hours (three courses) in an area, although a transfer student may have the three courses required, they may only have 9 credit hours. Thus they were required to take an additional course (at 4 credit hours) to satisfy that particular general education area.
- Due to the size of the major and general education programs, there is not much room for electives. There has not been a "bucket" into which transfer students can drop electives taken at previous institutions. They are still required to fulfill the larger majors, and hence the requirements for time to degree and number of credit hours to finish, are both increased.

The new minimum degree requirements...

- As stated, the undergraduate curriculum is being revised to reflect a three credit hour course standard. Currently, the majority of courses are four semester credit hours. In general, fulltime students take four courses (16 credit hours) each semester for four years. Bachelor degree programs require a minimum of 124 credit hours and associate degree programs, 62 credits.
- As a result of this change, minimum degree requirements will be decreased to 120 credit hours for a bachelor degree and 60 credits for an associate degree. It is expected that students will enroll in five courses per semester, for a total of 15 credits per semester.

How this will affect the faculty teaching load....

- The teaching load for full-time faculty currently is 24 credit hours per academic year, with faculty teaching three courses each semester. Under the new credit hour system, faculty will be expected to teach 21 credit hours. They will teach four courses one semester, and three courses the next semester. Collectively, full-time faculty will teach approximately 75 more courses, resulting in more flexibility in offerings for students.
- The change will affect all undergraduate coursework and degree programs offered in ODU's traditional calendar format. In general, four credit hour courses will be changed to three credit hours. Two credit hour courses will be expanded into three credit hour courses or alternatively, a pair of two credit hour courses will be combined into a new three credit hour course.

- Major programs will maintain the same number of courses unless the university is required by professional accrediting bodies or best practices to increase the number of courses. Requirements for the general education program will be decreased from 54-58 semester credits to 46-49 credits (dependent on overlap in requirements). Potentially, this will allow for an additional nine courses in student curricular programs.
- These changes will allow for greater flexibility in student curricula and should decrease time to degree completion for both incoming first-year and transfer students. Decreasing the minimum number of required semester credits for a bachelor degree from 124 credits to 120 credits will allow students to complete the degree in eight semesters if they enroll in 15 credits per semester. In addition, increased student enrollment in current offerings will make it less likely that courses will be cancelled due to low enrollment, also increasing curricular flexibility.
- This will be an ongoing change to all academic undergraduate degree programs offered in the traditional calendar format and will affect all undergraduate students within those programs. The changes are proposed to be implemented in Summer Semester 2011.

How the change will affect current students...

- Current students who choose to adopt the proposed Catalog will be allowed to take advantage of the reduced minimum required credits for graduation. They will be expected to complete the same number of major courses as under the current curriculum, except for those majors in which an extra course is introduced to satisfy professional accreditation and/or licensure requirements.
- Current students also will benefit from the reduced credits associated with general education requirements. It will be ensured that time to degree for these students will not increase, and it is expected that for many students, fewer credit hours will need to be completed to satisfy degree requirements.

Student support that is available....

- An academic advising session will be held on the afternoon of January 28, 2011 to enable students to meet with faculty advisors in their majors and discuss revisions. Faculty advisors will meet with students well in advance of Summer and Fall Semesters' 2011 registration to review each student's planned curriculum and any needed substitutions.

Proposed General Education Requirements: 54 credits

Core Curriculum Fundamentals: 9 credits

English 101 (3 credits)
English 102 (3 credits)
Math 121 or higher (3 credits)

Core Seminars: 12 credits

CORE 179 (3 credits)
CORE 279 (3 credits) *Can also satisfy Disciplinary Studies or Major Requirements*
CORE 379 (3 credits) *Can also satisfy Disciplinary Studies or Major Requirements*
CORE 479 (3 credits) *Satisfies Major Specific Capstone*

Disciplinary Studies 33 credits

Philosophy (6 credits)

Theology (6 credits)

Language (3 credits)

Arts and Ideas (9 credits) *total with at least 2 credits in each of the three areas*

Art/Music/Theatre

History

Literature

Natural Science (3 credits)

Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)

Diversity/Global/Multicultural course *(Should also satisfy Disciplinary Studies or Major Requirements)*

Questions and Answers

Q. Will I need the same number of credits (124) in order to graduate from ODU?

A. All students will be asked to make a decision to remain in their current catalog or update to the newest catalog. If a student updates to the newest catalog, the credits required for graduation will become 120. A student who remains in an existing catalog will still need to meet the 124 credit requirement.

Q. What will happen with ECN 205? I hear it is going away, and I want to

get credit for the work I've completed.

A. Students are required to complete at least six credits of economics under either catalog. For students who have already taken ECN 205, the suggested option would be a second economics course. Those who are yet to complete ECN 205 must complete both principles of microeconomics and principles of macroeconomics.

Q. I have taken a two-credit PHL or THL class. Will I now need seven credits of THL and PHL?

A. A student carrying a two-credit THL or PHL course into next fall will only need to take one three credit course to satisfy the requirement. The "one course at the 200-level" rule still applies.

Q. How will the Arts and Ideas requirements be affected? Will we now need nine credits?

A. Yes, the Arts and Ideas requirement will now be worth nine credits, three in each area of ART/MUS/THR, HST and Literature.

Q. Will all courses be three credits?

A. No, however the majority of classes will be worth three credits. Some courses like math and science courses with labs will remain four credits. There will also be a small number of one and two credit courses still available.

Q. How many courses will I need to take each semester in order to be full-time?

A. You will need to take 12 credits each semester to be a full-time student.

Q. Will the content of my classes change?

A. In some cases, it may. Some courses are being combined, split, or adjusted to accommodate the conversion. Every course has been reviewed by the offering division to justify major changes to courses. Course descriptions and program changes will be made available in January 2011.

Q. Will the times that the courses are offered change?

A. Yes, Ohio Dominican is working on redesigning the time rubric.

Q. Will a 2/3 rule be implemented? That is, if I take a course for 2.67 credits at Columbus State Community College, will that count as fulfilling a requirement under the three credit system?

A. The 75% rule will continue to apply. This means if a course is worth three credits at ODU, a student can bring in 2.25 credits to fulfill a requirement unless the requirement specifically calls for a certain amount of credits. A course requirement may be satisfied by a transfer course but the minimum number of graduation credits must still be satisfied.

Q. Will the change lower my tuition bill?

A. Tuition will neither increase nor decrease as a direct result of the credit conversion. If adjustments are made to tuition and fees, they will be a result of typical annual economic factors considered by the Board of Trustees when it sets the tuition and fees for next year.

Q. Will this change allow me to double major more easily?

A. Yes, absolutely. You will have more freedom to take more classes.

Q. What is the benefit of the three credit change? I'm not sure I understand.

A.. This change allows students to take more classes that may be of interest to them, pursue double majors, add one or more minors, more easily allow some large majors to graduate within four years, and assist transfer students in an easy transition to ODU. Most colleges run classes on three semester hours.

Q. Will the amount of study time that I need for each course change?

A. No. You should still plan to budget 40 hours a week for studying, if you are a full-time student.

Q. Will the change to three credit classes affect my graduation date?

A. No, you will still be able to graduate on time as long as you take enough hours every semester – see your academic/faculty advisor if you are not sure how many hours you need each semester

Q. Do I have to add a minor, or will I just take more major classes?

A. You do not have to add a minor, but this is a great opportunity to add a minor, or take some classes that you are interested in but didn't think you could fit into your schedule. You may even be able to add an internship and still graduate on time!

Major/Minor Sheets

Major and Minor sheets will be posted on this site in the near future.