

UC 12790 14S

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

APPROVED APR 23 2014
as amended. 

FROM: Richard Scamell
Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee

SUBJECT: UC 12771 14S: Proposal to Change Undergraduate Admission Requirements in Department of Engineering Technology

DATE: March 20, 2014

The Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee met on Wednesday, March 19 to consider a proposal to change the undergraduate admission requirements for all degree programs offered in the Department of Engineering Technology (Biotechnology, Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Power Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology). Participating in the discussion were subcommittee members Christina Gola, Richard Scamell, and Lesley Sisk. Heidar Malki and Carlo Deason attended the meeting as guests.

UC 11631 11F: Some Background Information

UC 11631 11F approved the adoption of Department of Engineering Technology's proposal in UC 11434 11F to change the undergraduate admission requirements to a 2.25 grade point average for all Engineering Technology programs (i.e., Biotechnology, Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Power Technology, and Mechanical Engineering Technology) **beginning with the Fall 2012 semester**. At that time, after discussion with the Subcommittee, the Department decided to drop first-time in college freshmen from the proposal. Hence the revised purpose of UC 11434 11F was to increase the minimum grade point average for entry into all Engineering Technology degree programs to 2.25 for (a) all transfer students from colleges and universities outside the University of Houston and (b) students changing their major within the University of Houston.

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The purpose of UC 12771 14S is to change the undergraduate admission requirements for all Engineering Technology programs (i.e., Biotechnology, Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Power Technology, and Mechanical Engineering Technology) **beginning with the Fall 2015 semester**. Once again, after discussion with the Subcommittee, the Department decided to drop first-time in college freshmen from the proposal. Hence the revised purpose of UC ~~11631 14S~~ is to increase the minimum grade point average for entry into all Engineering Technology degree programs to 2.50 for (a) all transfer students from colleges and universities outside the University of Houston and (b) students changing their major within the University of Houston¹.

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Justification

The enrollment in the Department of Engineering Technology has more than doubled since the Fall 2009 semester (from a total of 607 students in Fall 2009 to 1267 students in Fall 2013). In fact, the expected decrease in enrollment resulting from the new 2.25 minimum grade point average requirement between Fall 2012 and Fall 2013 semesters did not occur. Instead the enrollment in the department increased from 1179 in Fall 2012 to 1267 in Fall 2013. By raising the minimum grade point average requirement to 2.50, the Department will be able to attract more academically talented students and improve its graduation rate. In addition, students with higher grade point averages upon graduation will be in a better position to compete more effectively in the job market. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology at University of Houston – Downtown offers some comparable programs for students who do not meet the University of Houston Department of Engineering Technology admission requirements.

Recommendation

The Subcommittee recommends the adoption of UC12771 14S as revised.

¹ Applicants currently majoring in the Cullen College of Engineering or College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics will continue to be accepted with a 2.25 University of Houston grade point average.