

Shared Governance Proposal Review Process

Official Use Only

Proposal Name:

Date Received:

Is proposal a SGOC issue? Yes No

Responsible Committee:

Type of review:

Faculty Handbook Issue: Yes No

Staff Handbook Issue: Yes No

Constituency Groups: Faculty Senate

Chair's Council

Staff Senate

SGA

Dean's Council

GSC

	Expedited (7 Business Days)	Full (39 Business Days)	Extended (93 Business Days)
SGOC establish disposition		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC forward to responsible committees and SGCs		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGCs send comments to responsible committee		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Responsible committee prepares final draft and sends to SGOC		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC sends final draft to constituency groups for final up/down vote		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Constituency groups vote and notify SGOC		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC tally votes and sends final report		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Chancellor review and response		10 days	10 days
		Due by:	Due by:

Notes:

Final Status:

Date:

Shared Governance Proposal

- I. **Date:** November 7, 2022
- II. **Sponsoring Constituent:** Undergraduate Enrollment and Academic Policy Committee
- III. **Statement of the Issue:** Reduction of the minimum upper-level credit hours required for earning a baccalaureate degree from the current 45 hours to 40 hours

UNIVERSITY GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Each candidate for a baccalaureate degree must meet the following general requirements: (Some A-State colleges have additional “general” requirements.) . . .

- 8. Complete half of the last 50% of semester hours through the A-State campus.
- 9. Complete a minimum of **45 40** semester hours of junior-senior level courses.
- 10. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours (additional hours may be required by the various colleges for particular majors) and meet the requirements for a degree as outlined in the respective colleges’ requirements . . .

IV. **Rational for Proposal:**

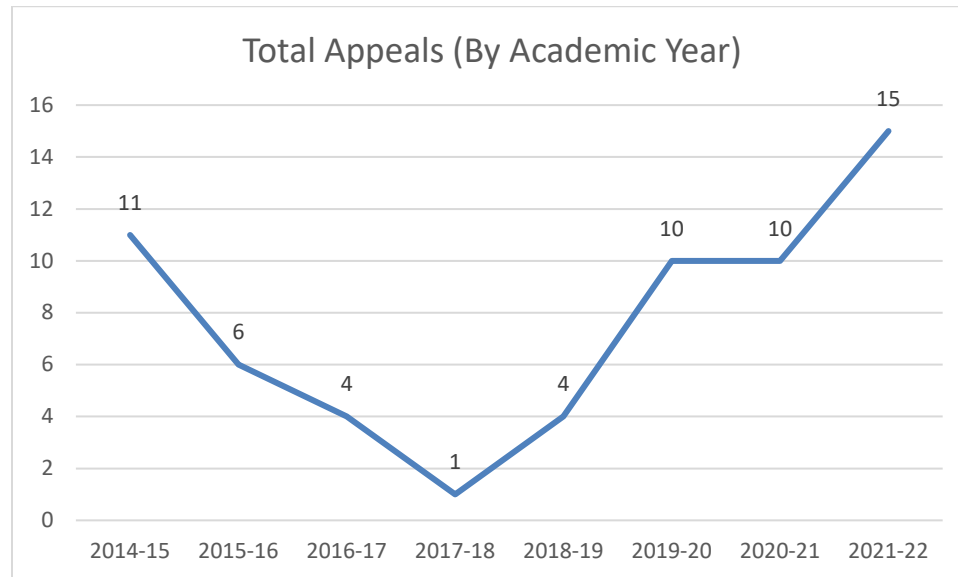
The current University policy is inconsistent with State of Arkansas minimum requirements and the policies of other Arkansas institutions of higher education. Furthermore, an increasing number of students are appealing the current requirement of 45 upper-level hours to the Undergraduate Graduation and Academic Appeals Committee to graduate in a timely manner.

The proposed change would make Arkansas State University consistent with State policy. Specifically, the State of Arkansas currently stipulates a minimum of 40 upper-level credit hours are required for the completion of a baccalaureate degree:

“The bachelor’s degree will be awarded to students upon successful completion of a program that requires a minimum of 120 undergraduate semester credit hours, including the 35-semester hour state minimum general education core, *a minimum of 40 semester hours of upper-level courses*, and a minimum of 30 semester hours (including 20 semester hours of upper-level courses) in the major field of study . . .” (ADHE Definitions, p. 24, emphasis added).

The proposed change would make Arkansas State University consistent with other institutions of higher education in Arkansas. The University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas Tech and University of Arkansas only require 40 upper-level hours for the completion of a baccalaureate degree.

As shown in the graph below, there has been an increasing number of appeals made to the Undergraduate Graduation and Academic Appeals Committee to waive our 45-hour requirement. In most cases, the student had satisfied the State-mandated 40-hours but was 1 or 2 hours short of the institutional requirement of 45 credit hours.



Due to the limited number of 1- and 2-credit hour upper-level courses at A-State that are open to all students, satisfying the current policy can result in students taking an additional 3-hour course that is not required for their major or the 120-credit hour total required for most baccalaureate degrees – which may also have financial aid implications.

It should be noted that the proposed policy change *only* refers to the minimum number of upper-level credit hours for the completion of a baccalaureate degree (i.e., the 120+ hours required by the State). There is no impact on the curriculum of any undergraduate major or program which currently require more than 40 upper-level hours in their program of study. In addition, no major would be required to provide students with the 40-hour minimum within their program of study (i.e., the State guideline quoted above indicates only a minimum of 20 upper-level credit hours are required within a major).

V. **Type of review:** Expedited