

**The UCC recommends imposing a limit on the number of transient courses counting for Core credit. We recommend that after matriculation at JCU, the limit be 18 credit hours of transient courses counting for Core.**

This policy, if approved by the Faculty in Spring 2012, would go into effect for those students entering in Fall 2012.

**Background:**

There is currently no limit on the number of transient courses that may count for Core credit. Data from the Enrollment Division indicate that while most students who apply transient courses to the Core requirements do so with only a small number of transient credits, nevertheless a small but growing set of students do achieve a large number of their Core credits from other institutions. The increasing number of Core courses taken elsewhere was a concern expressed in Core Director Earl Spurgin's reports to the faculty in both May 2009 and May 2010.

In Spring 2011, when the UCC approved a new policy allowing online courses from other institutions to count for Core credit, the committee felt some concern that this might further exacerbate students' flight to other institutions for Core courses. Because an increasing number of the courses offered at other institutions are online courses, to impose a limit on transient courses counting for Core would also have the effect of limiting the number of online courses that will be counted.

**Why apply the policy only after matriculation?** Transfer students often enter John Carroll with several semesters' worth of college courses. To limit the number of those courses that can count for JCU's Core would present a significant, and we think unreasonable, obstacle to transfer students' enrollment at and graduation from John Carroll. Furthermore, we do not wish to create an obstacle to those students who enter with AP credits.

**Why 18 credits?** This number is roughly one-third of our current 57-credit Core. A more restrictive limit might hamper students' ability to transfer Core credits from semester-long study abroad programs. We do not want to discourage study abroad.

**How will this policy be enforced?** Core Director Gwen Compton-Engle has met and discussed the logistics of this policy with all the Assistant Deans, two members of the Registrar's office, and Associate Dean Peter Kvidera. All of them support the proposal. Furthermore, John Reebel in ITS has developed a mechanism for its enforcement, namely a simple reporting form using the Argos reporting software. When a transient petition is received by the Core Director, s/he can type the student's Banner ID into this form and receive a list of post-matriculation transfer credits that the student has already been granted for Core credit. If the student has already reached the limit, the petition will be denied Core credit. The Registrar's office, upon receiving transcripts and entering the credits into Banner, will double-check to ensure that the student has not surpassed the limit. (This check at the end is essential because students often file multiple petitions simultaneously.) A sentence about this policy will also be added to the transient petition form.

**Costs:** We do not anticipate that this policy will incur any additional costs, except the small amount of additional time required of the Core Director and the Registrar's office. The potential educational benefit of ensuring that the majority of students' Core courses are taken at John Carroll would be far greater than this negligible cost.