

**Proposals on online courses from the Committee on Academic Policies
December 4, 2012**

CAP recommends faculty approval of each of these statements regarding the granting of transient credit for online courses offered by other institutions.

Proposal 1:

The faculty of JCU endorses the current practice that individual departments/department chairs determine whether a course taken online from another institution is acceptable for transfer credit. In the case of interdisciplinary courses (i.e., courses that do not reside in a particular department), that determination is made by the director/administrator of the program in which the course resides, in conjunction with the faculty member(s) teaching the equivalent course at John Carroll.

Rationale: The University does not and should not mandate particular teaching styles or methods. Making use of the internet in teaching a course is one such method. The faculty who teach in a particular discipline have the best sense of whether a course can be taught well in an online environment, and they should be permitted to rely on their professional judgment in determining how to teach the course. The primary decision about accepting a course for transfer credit should be made on the academic content of the course as reflected in the course description and/or syllabus, not on the method of delivery.

Proposal 2: The faculty of JCU endorses the current practice that the director of the University Core Committee determine, with the advice and consent of the Committee, whether an online course taken at another institution is acceptable to satisfy a core designation at JCU.

Rationale: The JCU core curriculum document states “The UCC will oversee the development of the Core, making recommendations to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on courses that might be proposed as first-year seminars, international courses, diversity courses, writing intensive courses or as the particular courses from a given department that will satisfy the requirements of the Core.”¹ It is the responsibility of the UCC to determine whether a particular course is appropriate for core credit. The primary decision about accepting a course for transfer credit should be made on the academic content of the course as reflected in the course description and/or syllabus, not on the method of delivery.

Note: These proposals do not consider courses taken by students before matriculation at JCU. Student transcripts do not indicate the delivery method for a course.

¹ “Core Curriculum in the Liberal Arts,” available online at <http://www.jcu.edu/A&S/corenew/bulletin/index.htm>.