

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA ITEM SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Rationale

In a commitment to remove barriers to enrollment, thereby increasing enrollment, UHCL proposes revising the current university transfer policy, simplifying and clarifying the GPA standards for prospective students and aligning the calculation for repeated courses with the calculation for current UHCL students.

This change will expediate the processing of transfer applications, resulting in faster admission decisions for students.

This change aligns UHCL with UH-Downtown's GPA admission standard of 2.0 for transfer students with 15 or more hours and freshman requirements for students with less than 15 hours.

UHCL Current Transfer Admission Policy:

- 0-11 hours: must meet freshman admission
- 12-29 hours: 2.75
- 30-44 hours: 2.25
- 45+ hours: 2.0 GPA
- All college-level grades, including repeats, are used to compute GPA.
- *Mechanical Engineering, RN-BSN, and BSE have program-specific transfer requirements.*

UHCL Proposed Transfer Admission Policy:

- 0-14 hours: must meet freshman admission
- 15 or more hours: 2.0 GPA
- All college-level grades are used to compute GPA; however, if a student repeats a course, only the last grade earned in the course will be counted in the GPA.
- *Mechanical Engineering, RN-BSN, and BSE have program-specific transfer requirements.*

Impact

1. Student Access

- **More inclusive Criteria:** The simplified GPA requirement will allow more transfer students to qualify for admission, especially those who have shown academic improvement through course repetition. By aligning UHCL's transfer GPA policy with UHD's, prospective transfer students will find a simplified standard for comparing the admissions criteria for these UH-System universities, removing barriers to enrollment and providing more opportunities for student success.
- **Support for Non-Traditional Students:** Students with complex academic histories (e.g., returning adults, community college transfers) will benefit from a more streamlined GPA calculation method.

- **Reduced Barriers:** Eliminating penalties for previous failed course attempts, in equitable alignment with the process for current UHCL students, encourages persistence and reduces discouragement for applicants.

2. Budget and Operational Efficiency

- **Increased Enrollment Potential:** More students who demonstrated academic improvement through course repetition may qualify for admission, resulting in a positive impact on enrollment.
- **Simplified GPA Thresholds:** Moving from a tiered GPA requirement to a single 2.0 threshold for students with 15 or more hours reduces complexity in application review.
- **Streamlined GPA Calculations:** Counting only the last attempt of repeated courses minimizes manual effort in recalculating cumulative GPAs, saving staff time and reducing errors.
- **Faster Processing:** Reduced application processing time will improve staff efficiency in providing students with faster admission decisions, which will positively impact enrollment.