



Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hour Requirement Review

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Regulation 8.014



Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours



- ✓ Allows an institution to request a bachelor's degree program to exceed 120 credit hours to degree

Qualifying Criteria

Additional courses required for accreditation standards

Additional courses required for professional licensing

Degree program offers a unique & innovative learning experience

Programs with 120 Credit Hour Exceptions

Staff Review



102 Programs Approved for Exceptions

Most programs approved to exceed 120 credit hours are in engineering

Top Discipline Areas with Exceptions	# of Programs
Engineering (CIPs 14 & 15)	60
Education (CIP 13)	12
Visual & Performing Arts (CIP 50)	10
Health Professions (CIP 51)	9

Programs with 120 Credit Hour Exceptions

Staff Review



Sample Programs with Majority of Universities Requiring 120 Credit Hours & Universities With Approved Exceptions

Discipline	# of Institutions With Program at 120 Hrs.	# of Institutions With Program at > 120 Hrs.
Special Education (CIP 13.1001)	8	1
Elementary Teacher Education (CIP 13.1202)	8	2
Dramatic Arts (CIP 50.0501)	5	4
Studio/Fine Art (CIP 50.0702)	6	1
Music Performance (CIP 50.0903)	5	1
Nursing/Registered Nurse (CIP 51.3801)	6	4

Programs with 120 Credit Hour Exceptions

Staff Review



**Approved
prior to 2015**

Most programs (96 of 102) approved to exceed 120 credit hours prior to 2015

**High Workforce
Demand**

63 programs are on the new Programs of Strategic Emphasis list & 26 are eligible for the waiver

**No Review
Process**

Once requests are approved, there is no review process on whether the exception is still necessary

Programs with 120 Credit Hour Exceptions

Staff Review



Reverting Back to 120 Credits

- Board Regulation 8.014 allows universities to revert programs back to 120 credit hours at their discretion
- Process was streamlined in 2023
- Since 2020, universities have reverted 19 programs back to 120 credit hours
- Universities indicated more could be reverted during this review

Recommendations



- Institutions review the rationale for programs exceeding 120 credit hours & determine if programs should continue with the status
- If status is necessary, institutions submit new requests to exceed the 120 credit hour requirement for Board approval



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