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The Four Course, 128 Credit System

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Authors	Munson, Glenn
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THE FOUR-COURSE, 128 CREDIT SYSTEM

A Working Document for the Transition

1. The unit of measure for all academic endeavors will be a *credit*.
2. The average academic load for a student in one semester will be four (4) courses or sixteen (16) credits.
3. While most courses will carry four credits, some academic pursuits may be counted as one credit or two credits. These courses include:
 - a. Research. A student may enroll in a directed research course with a faculty member that earns one or two credits. A student may not earn more than eight (8) credits for such involvements.
 - b. Directed Inquiry. A student may enroll in a self-designed directed inquiry that earns one or two credits. A student may not earn more than eight (8) credits for such involvements.
 - c. Student academic activities. Activities such as Model United Nations and Mock Trial may offer one credit per semester of involvement. A student may not earn more than four (4) credits for such involvements.
 - d. Applied music lessons, Rhodes Singers, musical ensembles, theatre activities, and other similar activities that are not four credit courses may offer up to two (2) credits per semester of involvement. Rhodes Singers and other musical ensembles could meet a degree requirement upon the successful completion of four (4) credits of activity.
 - e. Activities that require student involvement substantially beyond what is expected of typical four-credit courses with which they are associated, such as some laboratories, and other stand-alone academic pursuits may be offered for one or two credits.
4. A total of 128 credits will be required for the Bachelor's degree.
5. A total of 32 credits beyond the number earned for the first Bachelor's degree will be required for a second Bachelor's degree.
6. A total of 32 credits will be required for the Master's degree.
7. A student must earn a minimum of sixty-four (64) credits at Rhodes, including the final thirty-two (32) as the senior year in residency requirement and including the senior year experience. With permission, a student may take eight of the final thirty-two credits as transfer courses.
8. A full-time course load is twelve (12) credits. A student taking less than twelve (12) credits will be classified as "part-time".
9. A student may take as few as twelve (12) credits or as many as eighteen (18) credits as a regular course load.
10. A student may take less than twelve (12) or more than eighteen (18) credits only with permission.
11. First-year students may take a maximum of four full courses in a semester. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are in good academic standing may take five full courses within the guidelines for permission stated above. Students may register for only four courses; the fifth course may be added during the drop/add period.
12. An extra tuition fee will be charged for students taking more than eighteen (18) credits.
13. A student may receive four credits for achieving the appropriate scores on any one Advanced Placement exam or International Baccalaureate exam accepted for credit by the College. The department in which the credit is awarded may determine whether or not general degree requirement credit will be awarded.

14. A student may earn a maximum of thirty-two (32) credits by AP and/or IB exams.
15. Credit for students who transfer to Rhodes will be counted under the following guidelines:
- a. Courses presented with two or three semester hours or less than six quarter hours will be given the appropriate and corresponding number of credits of transfer credit.
 - b. Normally, only courses earning a full four credits may be used to satisfy degree requirements. Credit from several courses may be combined to total four or more credits and therefore satisfy a degree requirement. Department chairs have the option of accepting a three credit course for degree requirement if the corresponding course in the department meets that same requirement.
 - c. Transfer courses taken by matriculated students will be counted in the same way.
16. Departmental and interdisciplinary majors may require a minimum of 32 credits and a maximum of 64 credits. Normally, an academic minor will require 20 credits.
17. A minimum of 30 credits are required for admission to the Sophomore class, 63 credits for admission to the Junior class, and 96 credits for admission to the Senior class. It should be noted that a minimum of 32 credits must be earned per year in order to accumulate the 128 credits required for graduation in four years.
18. The cumulative standards for Academic Probation and Suspension are as follows:

Number of Credit Hours Earned	Minimum GPA to Avoid Suspension	Minimum GPA to Avoid Probation
0-30	1.50	1.60
31-63	1.70	1.80
63-96	1.90	2.00
97 or more	2.00	2.00

In addition, a student is subject to probation in any semester in which the student earns fewer than twelve (12) credits and earns a grade point average of less than 1.500.

The Transition to a New Curriculum

Assuming the implementation of the new curriculum in the Fall Semester, 2006, degree requirements would have to be implemented through a transition of both the general degree requirements and the total number of hours required for the degree.

1. The hours required for the degree would be as follows based on the number of academic years the student would be attendance under the four-course system:

Class of 2007 (entered Fall, 2003)	116
Class of 2008 (entered Fall, 2004)	120
Class of 2009 (entered Fall, 2005)	124
Class of 2010 (entered Fall, 2006)	128

(Some type of arrangement would have to be made for students desiring to earn two degrees during the transition years.)

2. General Degree Requirements

- a. Basic Humanities Requirement

Class of 2007 (entered Fall, 2003)	Must complete four courses
Class of 2008 (entered Fall, 2004)	Must complete four courses
Class of 2009 (entered Fall, 2005)	Must complete three courses (101, 102, 201 or higher)
Class of 2010 (entered Fall, 2006)	Must complete three courses (101, 102, 201 or higher)

- b. Foreign Language Requirement

Same for all students. Through the 201 level of the language

- c. Distribution Requirements (Foundation Requirements)

Class of 2007 (entered Fall, 2003)	Must complete current requirements
Class of 2008 (entered Fall, 2004)	May complete new requirements or transition curriculum
Class of 2009 (entered Fall, 2005)	May complete new requirements or transition curriculum
Class of 2010 (entered Fall, 2006)	Must complete new requirements in 2006-2007 catalog

- d. Academic Major Requirements

Class of 2007 (entered Fall, 2003)	Must complete current requirements
Class of 2008 (entered Fall, 2004)	May complete new requirements or transition curriculum
Class of 2009 (entered Fall, 2005)	May complete new requirements or transition curriculum
Class of 2010 (entered Fall, 2006)	Must complete new requirements in 2006-2007 catalog

- e. Academic Minor Requirements

Class of 2007 (entered Fall, 2003)	Must complete current requirements
Class of 2008 (entered Fall, 2004)	May complete new requirements or transition curriculum
Class of 2009 (entered Fall, 2005)	May complete new requirements or transition curriculum
Class of 2010 (entered Fall, 2006)	Must complete new requirements in 2006-2007 catalog