

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Students May Register for 8 Credits in Winter Without Permission

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: Anita Brown

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION: Jose Juncosa

MOTION (this section alone will be recorded in the minutes):

Beginning in Fall 2026, students should be able to register for up to 8 credits in winter terms without requesting permission from their academic advisor and dean; however, if the registration in winter would involve two or more courses that include labs, students will need to obtain permission from their academic advisor and dean.

The SU Catalog shall be altered as shown below

Current Catalog Copy

Most programs at the University are designed for completion within a four-year time period, provided the student completes an average of 15 to 16 credits of coursework each regular semester. While 12 to 19 credits is considered full time for tuition purposes, 15 credits is considered by the University to be an average load. Students registering for more than 19 fall/spring semester, 8 summer terms and/ or 7 winter term credits must receive written approval of their advisor and the dean of the school housing their major. Students may obtain the appropriate form from the [Office of the Registrar website](#).

New Catalog Copy

Most programs at the University are designed for completion within a four-year time period, provided the student completes an average of 15 to 16 credits of coursework each regular semester. While 12 to 19 credits is considered full time for tuition purposes, 15 credits is considered by the University to be an average load. **Students registering for more than 19 credits during a fall or spring semester, more than 8 credits during a summer term, more than 8 credits during winter term, or multiple lab courses during winter term, must receive written approval of their advisor and the dean of the school/college housing their major.** Students may obtain the appropriate form from the [Office of the Registrar website](#).

JUSTIFICATION:

Current policy is that students wishing to enroll in more than 7 credits during winter term must obtain permission from their advisor and dean. The SU Student Success Council investigated and reported that prior to the conversion of most courses to 4 credits, students were frequently able to enroll in two winter classes (other than lab courses) without seeking approval. The Student Success Council believes that permitting students to enroll in up to 8 credits in winter, without needing approval, will benefit students by

- helping students to increase their yearly credit count
- helping students recover from a low GPA semester
- helping students recover from an under-enrolled semester

An increase to 8 credits in winter would permit students to enroll in two lab courses without requiring permission, which the current policy does not permit. Lab courses involve extended seat time. In a fall

or spring semester, a typical 4 hour lab course requires 7 hours of seat time per week. The APC sought feedback from departments/schools that offered courses with additional seat time. Concern was expressed that permitting students to enroll in two lab courses in winter would likely lead to a lack of success rather than a benefit, and that it was preferable to have students still request permission to complete more than one lab course in the winter.

While current winter schedules would usually prevent students from enrolling in two lab courses (the class times typically overlap), there is a possibility of lab courses being taught in the evening, which could permit students to enroll in two lab courses in the winter. This proposal permits students to enroll in 8 credits in winter term without requiring the student to seek permission, but requires them to seek permission to enroll in more than one lab course during winter term.

Because the number of students who might enroll in multiple lab courses in the winter should be very small, there is no expectation for an electronic registration process to block enrollments in multiple lab courses in the winter term. Instead, schools/colleges offering lab courses will have to choose to enforce this restriction on their own, manually.

This change also corrects the confusion present in the current statement in the catalog regarding students needing permission from the dean of the school housing their major. In CHHS, the dean is the dean of the college (not school) housing their major.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

Negative:

- Electronic forms and processes and perhaps other media will need to be altered.
- There is a potential for students to over commit in non-lab courses, but the expectation is for the change to help significantly more students.
- Students will not have some of the traditional financial aid avenues available in winter/summer sessions.
- There could be an increased demand for winter course offerings.
- Schools/colleges offering labs who want to enforce the restriction of only one lab course in winter term without permission, will have to enforce it. Until a significant scheduling change occurs, such as night labs or online offerings, this may be as few as zero students.

Positive:

- Students may increase their yearly credit count
- Students may better use winter term to recover from a low GPA semester
- Students may better use winter to recover from an under-enrolled semester
- There could be an increased demand for winter course offerings.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes X No
Is this a recommendation to someone else? No Yes, to

VOTE: Number of Senators Present: Motion Passes or Fails: