Lake Erie College

4 to 3 Conversion Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

- The New Minimum Credit Hour Undergraduate Degree Requirement

Beginning in fall 2016, the undergraduate curriculum is undergoing revision to reflect a three credit hour standard. Some LEC courses will remain at four credits due to course content and pedagogy. Baccalaureate degree programs currently require a minimum of 128 credit hours and students generally took four courses each semester. Because of the 4-3 credit hour conversion, the minimum undergraduate degree requirement will be 120 credit hours.

- Students May Be Able to Take More Courses Per Semester

It is expected that many students will now be able to enroll in a standard five courses per semester, for a total of 15 credits (three credit hours per course). This will generally not increase a student’s time in class, as courses converted to three credits will also have a shortened class meeting time; expectations for out-of-class work may be modified as well.

- Number of Actual Courses Will, In Most Cases, Remain the Same for Undergraduate Degree Programs

While most four-credit courses will be transitioned to three credit hours, the number of courses required of the major will largely remain the same. Any change to the actual courses will be done through the normal curricula review process. The changes will allow for greater flexibility for students and should decrease time to completion for incoming first-year and transfer students. Students who enroll in 15 credits per semester, should complete their degree in eight semesters.

- Student Support and Advising is Available

Open forums will be scheduled during fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters enabling students the opportunity to meet with advisors and staff from Academic Affairs.

Faculty advisors will also be available during advising weeks to work with students. Lake Erie College advisors and academic staff will work closely with students to provide information and coordinate to assess the impact on the students schedule, progress and time to completion.

FAQ's for 4-3 conversion

Question 1: I’m a graduate student, how does the conversation affect me?
Answer: The conversion only applies to undergraduate programs.

Question 2: When does the change take effect?
Answer: Fall 2016, but advising to the change will begin immediately.
Question 3: Will I need 128 or 120 hours to graduate with a Lake Erie College undergraduate degree?
Answer: The new minimum degree requirement (reduced to 120 from 128) will take effect fall 2016. All current students will be asked to make a decision to remain in their current catalog or update to the newest catalog. If a student updates to the new catalog, they will need to complete the minimum 120 credits and follow the new general education track. A student who remains in an existing catalog will still need to meet the 128 credit. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and dependent upon a student’s circumstance.

Question 4: Will all courses be three credits?
Answer: No; however, most courses will be three credits.

Question 5: Will LEC major requirements change?
Answer: LEC does not anticipate significant changes.

Question 6: Will the content of the courses change?
Answer: In some cases, yes. Some courses are being combined, split or adjusted to accommodate the conversion. Course descriptions will be published in the catalogue as per the normal process.

Question 7: Will the class schedule change?
Answer: LEC is excited about moving to a more simplified schedule. The new format will have more normalized start and end times. Courses undergoing the conversion will have their meeting time reduced.

Question 8: How many credit hours will I need to take each semester to be full-time?
Answer: Students will need four courses or the equivalency of 12 credit hours to be considered full-time. In order to complete the undergraduate degree within four years, a student may anticipate taking 15 credits per semester.

Question 9: How will the change impact transfer course work?
Answer: The change will streamline the transfer review process. Courses will better align with the State of Ohio Transfer Assurance Guarantee and most other Ohio colleges and universities.

Question 10: Will the change affect my graduation timeline?
Answer: In most cases, no; however, it will be critical for students to meet regularly with their advisor.

Question 11: What happens if I need to repeat a course?
Answer: Each course repeat will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Question 12: Will the change impact my tuition bill?
Answer: Tuition will neither increase nor decrease as a direct result of the conversion. In addition, students will continue to benefit from the 12-18 credit hour flat rate tuition plan.

Question 13: Who should I contact to answer questions and seek help regarding the conversion?
Answer: Please contact your faculty academic advisor or Cindy Mako-Robinson, the academic affairs advisor, at cmakorobinson@lec.edu or 440-375-7059