

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of a Modification of the Policy allowing for the Exemption of the TOEFL Requirement

Whereas, the current policy allows for exemptions of the TOEFL requirement for applicants who have recently completed a bachelor's degree (four years attendance and completion of at least 100 semester hours of graded coursework) at an accredited institution in the United States with continuous residence in the United States prior to application at SIU, and

Whereas, the current policy allows for exemptions for applicants who have been awarded a master's degree at an accredited institution in the United States and obtained a TOEFL score of at least 550/80 immediately prior to beginning graduate studies and who had been in residence in the United States continuously prior to application to SIU; and

Whereas, these requirements are more stringent than at other institutions; and

Whereas, these requirements are more stringent than our undergraduate policy which only requires that 48 credits hours be completed by applicants seeking an exemption; and

Whereas, a reduction in the number of required credit hours for applicants holding a BA from 100 to 60, and removal of the stipulation that "applicants holding an MA must have obtained a TOEFL score of at least 550/80 immediately prior to beginning graduate studies" would improve our best practices without negatively impacting our academic quality; and

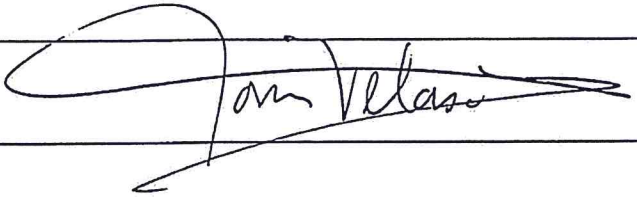
Whereas, a reduction in the number of required credit hours for applicants holding a BA from 100 to 60, and removal of the stipulation that "applicants holding an MA must have obtained a TOEFL score of at least 550/80 immediately prior to beginning graduate studies" would make it easier for international students in the US to transfer to SIU Carbondale and would likely increase our enrollment by removing roadblocks; and

Whereas, a reduction in the number of required credit hours for applicants holding a BA from 100 to 60, and removal of the stipulation that "applicants holding an MA must have obtained a TOEFL score of at least 550/80 immediately prior to beginning graduate studies" would make our requirements more comparable to the requirements of other Graduate Schools or Colleges at similar institutions.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Graduate Council approve the change to the exemption of the TOEFL requirement, with continuous residence in the United States prior to application at SIU allowing it to be awarded to applicants holding a Bachelor's degree who have completed 60 hours of coursework, and to applicants holding a Master's degree who had a passing TOEFL score upon applying to their Master's program, regardless of when the exam was taken, with continuous residence in the United States.

Date of Approval

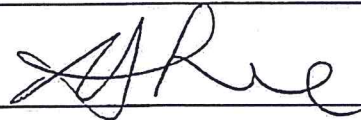
Nov. 2, 2017



Chair, Graduate Council

Nov. 9, 2017

Date



Dean, Graduate School

11/9/17

Date