

John Carroll University Educational Policy Proposal

Date: January 2019

Authors/Sponsors: UCEP Sub-Committee

Policy Name: Credit from Previously Awarded Degrees

Time Sensitivity: Part of *Undergraduate Bulletin* revision cycle

- **Current University Policy**

There is no formal, written policy at this time. Current university practice says that students with a previously awarded Bachelor's degree can only pursue a second degree if it is different from the first (i.e., they can pursue a B.S. degree if they already have a B.A. degree). No credit from the first degree will transfer, and they must complete all degree requirements.

- **Revised or New University Policy**

Students with a previously awarded Bachelor's degree may pursue a second Bachelor's degree in an area of study different from their first Bachelor's degree. Completing a second degree is not the same as adding a major to an existing degree. Students must complete the following requirements:

- A minimum of 60 credits in residence at John Carroll.
- All major requirements in effect at the time of matriculation.
- All Transfer Core requirements, as identified in our transfer policies.

Students seeking to complete a second degree will apply as transfer students and are subject to transfer student and transfer of credit policies currently in place.

- **Rationale and Discussion**

Student admission requests to complete a second Bachelor's degree are rare. However, recent requests from students seeking a second Bachelor's degree have prompted the development of a formal policy to guide admissions.

A small survey of similar-sized schools was conducted to see how they handled requests for second degrees. The majority of schools agreed that these cases are rare. Although many schools will allow students to pursue a second Bachelor's degree, they also stated it did not seem to be in the best interest of the student and would often counsel students to consider graduate school or post-baccalaureate work instead. UCEP originally agreed with this path. However, during a review CAP determined that students should have the right to make the decision as to what is in their best interests. The above policy recommendation was then revised to enable a second degree, following transfer credit guidelines.

The proposed policy would apply to students who have completed a Bachelor's degree at another U.S. institution, former John Carroll graduates, and international students to ensure consistency among all students. Students interested in pursuing a second degree would be assessed under the current transfer policies and procedures at the time of application, as is common among other schools who allow a second degree. A second degree would require the completion of all major-level coursework and the Transfer Core to ensure that they are completing a degree, and not simply another major. The second degree must be in a different discipline than the student's original degree.

The Committee also consulted with the Office of Financial Aid to better understand what financial support is available for second degrees. Financial aid is available, though it is a limited amount and would most likely not cover the entirety of the coursework students would have to complete. Students would have to be counseled accordingly on the financial ramifications.

- **Implementation Timeline, Budget, and Recommendations**

If approved, this policy would go into effect with the *2020-2021 Undergraduate Bulletin*. There are no budget implications, or recommendations.

- **Appendix Documents**

Listserv responses. [Please see "Table 1. Previously Awarded Degrees"](#).