**Proposal to Eliminate the 18/30 Units in Residence policy**

*Submitted by University Academic Advising Council (UAAC), 1/6/2020*

**Proposal Statement**

The University Academic Advising Council recommends the elimination of the 18/30 Units in Residence policy (see <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/units-residence>). The majority of program major and minor plans define minimum units in residence, and it is recommended that all plans be updated to address residency units.

For clarification, there is no recommendation to change the 30 units in residence requirement.

**Rationale**

Following is a summary of some of the issues with the current policy.

* Indeed, **18 of the final 30 units in residence is not calculated on the Advisement Report**. Students and advisors must calculate manually.
* Problems arise with this policy when students are nearing graduation learn that while they have 30 units in residence, the order in which test or transfer credit is completed and applied to the final 30 units, they may discover they have not satisfied that 18 of the final 30 units are in residence. Students are left to either take additional elective UA course work (at additional expense), file a general petition (difficult for May graduates since there are no petitions accepted during summer months), or delay their graduation.
* **This policy disproportionately affects AAS transfer students compared to other students, which means it affects adult, military, rural, and ethnically diverse students.** AAS transfer students are typically short the general education requirements they need when they transfer, and they are co-enrolled at both the community college and the UA to finalize their general education coursework (by design of the AAS to BAS 75/45 pathway defined by ABOR).
* The Department of Defense MOU and other military pathway agreements, such as the UA-ABC pathways from the CCAF, specifically ask about residency units and final units in residency policies. We’re one of a select number of universities qualifying for the AU-ABC pathways: One of the questions they ask is:

*Please confirm that a residency of not more than 25% of the degree’s credit requirement (30 SH) and no final year of residency will be required by your institution for degree completion. Also explain options for Airmen to complete the 25% required residency with your institution wen traditional classroom opportunities are not available with your institution.*

* To remain eligible for financial aid, students must transfer as soon as they complete their Associates degree regardless of whether their prerequisites and other requirements for their UA degree are complete. If students who are earning a BA degree elect to take 16 units of second language elsewhere – or – earns 16 units through successful completion of a CLEP exam, they have already violated 18/30.
* Study abroad in the senior year can be problematic if it’s not a UA credit bearing program or there is a change in credits that are transferred (i.e. planned for a 3-unit course, but it turned out to be 4 units).
* Geosciences is unable to offer enough enrollment for the required senior field camp meaning many students must transfer a 6-unit course in their final year.
* Problems are beginning to surface for micro campus students. Courses are offered on a rotating basis, so depending on a student’s start date, they may end up with a lighter load of UA classes in their final semester thus causing them to not meet the 18/30-unit requirement. There is no option for these students to take elective UA classes since they are not available to these students.