SUNY Cortland

TO: SUNY Cortland Faculty

FROM: Dr. Chris Widdall
                 Chair, Educational Policy Committee

DATE: April 15, 2019

RE: Major and Program Standard GPA Definitions

The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) is proposing a consistent definition for the term undergraduate *major GPA and clarification of how the degree audit major GPAs are calculated.* This is to ensure that the courses included as part of the major as outlined in the catalog align with the courses used to calculate the major GPA as implemented in Degree Works and any advising materials.

This stems from many departments utilizing major GPAs, or some iteration of a major GPA, to track student progress and entry into higher level coursework and field experiences. Depending on what courses a department has used to build the current major GPA block in the degree audit as well as how course exceptions are being applied, major GPA calculations can differ between the major GPA block and the major requirements block. This discrepancy leads students and others to question which is the accurate major GPA calculation.

Major and Program Standard GPA Definitions

EPC proposes the following definitions:

Major GPA: The GPA calculated by all courses identified in the college catalog as required for the major.

Program Standard GPA: The GPA calculated by a defined subset of courses used as a criterion for department evaluation of academic progress within the major.

Note the college requires that students have a minimum overall GPA and a major GPA of 2.0 in order to graduate. Some programs require a higher major or program standard GPA; refer to the college catalog for specific GPA requirements.

Implementation

1. Not all programs will have a Program Standard GPA.
2. Degree Works will reflect the Major GPA and the Program Standard GPA (if any).
3. Departments will submit a Level 1 *curricular change to:
    a. establish or change the courses that are included in the Program Standard GPA.
    b. establish or change the minimum Program Standard or Major GPA required for academic progress in a program.
4. The courses required for the Program Standard GPAs will be listed in the College Catalog on each specific program page.

- Please refer to the Curriclum Change Guide for additional information on curriculum change process and levels.

- On an individual basis, if a student would like to petition a different qualifying course be utilized in the Major GPA or Program Standard GPA, the student's advisor would need to submit a *Degree Works Exception Request* form.