

## **Satellite Program Graduation with Honors**

### **Academic Policies Committee**

**April 19, 2011**

On December 6, 2010, the APC was requested to consider the following question from the Social Work Department:

The Social Work Department and the University have entered into several articulation agreements with Maryland Community Colleges specifically for students transferring to the BASW program at our satellite sites. These agreements allow for the transfer of a range of credit hours from 65 to 70. An unintended consequence of these arrangements is that the students then take from 50 to 55 credit hours at Salisbury which is fewer than the 56 credit hours required to be considered for graduation with honors.

The students in the satellite program are generally non traditional students who are also the first generation in their families to graduate from college. The designation of honors is an important achievement to them.

Since the agreements we developed cause the students to be from 1–6 credits shy of the 56 credits required, we would like to propose that the students who transfer to Salisbury under these particular agreements be allowed to be considered for graduation with honors.

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At a meeting on January 27, 2011, the APC discussed this issue. Since the structure of the articulation agreement is what prevents these students from meeting the requirements, there was general support for allowing them the opportunity to graduate with honors. Students might take an extra course to meet the requirements, but we recognize that the costs involved would discourage them from doing so, and the APC believes this imposes an unfair burden on them.

The APC investigated to find out if any other satellite programs had articulation agreements with similar conditions, so any change in policy would include them as well, but Social Work's BASW program is the only one affected. Whether this then necessitates altering the Catalog copy describing our policy for graduation with honors is unclear, but the Committee does suggest the institution of a mechanism for permitting these satellite BASW students to be considered for this honor.