Proposal for Catalog Changes for the 3+2 Engineering Program

Background

The current catalog language states.

*Students must satisfy the following requirements at Saint Mary’s: three years of study with the completion of 27 transferable course credits and a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better.*

The requirement of 3.0 was intended as a requirement for guaranteed transfer to one of our two affiliated engineering schools, it was never intended as a graduate requirement. At the time this catalog language was written our affiliated engineering schools guaranteed admission to SMC students who achieved a 3.0 GPA. Recently one of our affiliated schools decided to no longer guarantee admission to anyone and the other affiliated school raised the minimum GPA for guaranteed admission to 3.25. In addition the registrars office has begun to interpret the requirement of 3.0 as a graduation requirement, leading to many of our 3+2 engineering students to not receive a degree form SMC.

Our affiliated schools have very selective admissions policies. We have had students who began their study at a community college and want to use the 3+2 program as a way of gaining admission to these selective schools, while doing the bulk of their work at the community college. This seems like an abuse of the reputation of the 3+2 program, and deceptive to our partner schools. We have an informal agreement with our affiliated schools to require a minimum of two years residency at SMC for our 3+2 students.

Proposal

We propose the following catalog language to replace the current language.

*Students must satisfy the following requirements at Saint Mary’s: three years of study with the completion of 27 transferable course credits with a minimum of 18 completed at Saint Mary’s.*

Rational

We believe that the 3.0 requirement is no longer accurate as a transfer criteria, and is unjustly applied as a graduation requirement. Thus it is best removed.

The inclusion of a residency requirement is bringing the catalog language in line with what we have been practicing.