

DATE: February 18, 2016

TO: CASNR Faculty  
CASNR Advisors

FROM: Steve Waller

SUBJECT: Proposed Residency Requirements for a CASNR Degree

The CASNR Faculty Advisory Council was asked last semester to review the College's residency requirement:

*Students must complete at least 30 of the total hours for their degree using UNL credits. Credit earned during education abroad may be used towards the residency requirement if students register through UNL and participate in prior-approved education abroad programs. UNL open enrollment and summer independent study courses count toward residence.*

The rationale for considering a change in the current residency policy (above) included the following:

- University and College policy allows a student to apply up to 90 transfer credit hours towards the 120 credit hours required for a degree.
- Our current policy indicates that '*students must complete at least 30 of the total hours for their degree using UNL credits*'.
- Students can currently meet the standards without completing a CASNR course and benefitting from the expertise and professional ethics of CASNR faculty. For example, a student can transfer 90 credit hours from a four year institution using course equivalencies within the degree program and complete 30 credit hours of ACE/electives (non-CASNR) at UNL and be compliant with the current residency requirement.
- It is the context of a degree defined by the faculty offering the degree, not the content of the curriculum, that defines an educational pedigree. This is best experienced in the upper division courses within the degree program.

Following discussions in their units, the FAC members approved a motion to recommend a new residency policy for CASNR at their February 10, 2016 meeting:

**Students must complete at least 30 of the total hours for their degree using UNL credits. At least 18 of the 30 credit hours must be in courses offered through CASNR<sup>1</sup> (>299) including the appropriate ACE 10 degree requirement or an approved ACE 10 substitution offered through another UNL college and excluding independent study regardless of number of hours transferred. Credit earned during education abroad may be used toward the residency requirement if students register through UNL and participate in prior-approved education abroad programs. UNL open enrollment and summer independent study courses count toward residence.**

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<sup>1</sup>**Includes courses taught by CASNR faculty through interdisciplinary prefixes (e.g., LIFE, MBIO, ENVR, SCIL, EAEP, HRTM, ENSC) and CASNR crosslisted courses taught by non-CASNR faculty.**

I concur with their recommendation and approve the new residency policy, effective with the new undergraduate bulletin (2016-2017 academic year). As in the past, exceptions to the College residency policy can be considered through a substitution/waiver request.