Graduate Council Agenda Item Approval Form

Date: March 15, 2016

Name: Dr. John Weinstein

Department of Biology

I approve these items to be presented to the Graduate Council.

Signature: Lok C. Lew Yan Voon 3/15/16
Dean, School of Science and Mathematics
Lok C. Lew Yan Voon, Ph.D.

Proposal for Waiving Undergraduate Degree Requirements in Accelerated Master’s Programs

Action Item: Approve policy on the waiving of undergraduate degree requirements for graduate courses taken as part of an accelerated master’s program.

Policy on Waiving Undergraduate Degree Requirements in Accelerated Bachelor-to-Masters Programs

With permission of the appropriate graduate program director and undergraduate major Dean/Department Head, cadets in The Citadel’s bachelor-to-master’s degree accelerated graduate programs may have up to 2 courses, or 8 credit hours, successfully completed at the graduate level waived from their undergraduate major degree requirements as long as the resulting baccalaureate degree has over 120 credit hours and graduate degree has at least 30 credit hours. Credit waivers will be determined by the appropriate graduate program director and/or Dean/Department Head. Students must earn a grade of B or better in the graduate course in order for an undergraduate degree requirement to be waived. Cadets enrolled in graduate classes will be held to Citadel Graduate College policies in those classes, including Academic Standards, Grades, and Attendance. Cadets in graduate classes will continue to be subject to the honor system as prescribed by “The Honor Manual of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets.”

Discussion/Rationale:

One common practice among accelerated bachelor-to-master’s programs (i.e. 4+1 programs) is to apply successfully completed graduate-level work toward undergraduate degree requirements. The primary purpose of this practice is to allow students to accelerate their education, as the student requires fewer credit hours than usual to complete both degrees. In fact, the ability to receive undergraduate credit for successfully completed graduate-level courses may be the primary appeal of these accelerated
programs to prospective students. Although policies vary considerably from one institution to the next, most programs allow for 6 to 12 graduate credit hours to be applied toward undergraduate requirements, and they require students to successfully complete those graduate courses with a B grade or higher. Most programs maintain dual-listed undergraduate and graduate courses or post lists of substitutable courses.

Given the differences in the grading systems between graduate and undergraduate courses at The Citadel, and the general lack of dual-listed courses between programs, the proposed policy on waiving undergraduate degree requirements for successfully completed graduate course work serves the same purpose as policies at other institutions.