

8.014**Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement.**

- (1) The Board of Governors may approve a university board of trustees request for a bachelor's degree program to exceed 120 credit hours to degree. Programs may be approved for one or more of the following reasons.
 - (a) Additional courses are required to meet specialized accreditation standards for program content, and such accreditation is expected or required for program graduates to become employed in the profession for which they are being prepared.
 - (b) Additional courses are required to meet state or federal-mandated criteria for professional licensing.
 - (c) The degree program offers a unique and innovative learning experience, such as honors programs, individualized study, and other non-traditional educational approaches.

- (2) Approval to exceed 120 credit hours to degree applies to the degree program and its majors as defined in Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings. In the request for approval, the university must identify all majors within the degree program and the number of credit hours required for each major. The highest number of credit hours will be recorded in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory and used for state-level accountability calculations. Universities shall not implement majors within a degree program that exceed the recorded maximum number of credit hours for the degree program without following the processes described herein, as appropriate.

- (3) Each university board of trustees has the authority to approve