

July 11, 2014

This letter is to clarify how Seattle Pacific University regards 5000-level courses and credits. Seattle Pacific University offers three levels of courses at the **Graduate** level:

- 1) 7000-level courses are at the doctoral degree level
- 2) 6000-level courses are at the masters degree level
- 3) 5000-level courses were designed primarily with the needs of teachers in mind for the purpose of meeting certification, endorsement, and district pay lane requirements. Although different in purpose from the core master's or doctoral graduate degree courses, these graduate-level courses may be considered to meet elective requirements in some graduate degree programs, in accordance with the regulations of the particular graduate degree program and approval of the student's program advisor.

The **5000-level courses** cannot be used to satisfy SPU undergraduate degree requirements for those students admitted Autumn Quarter 1992 and following. They **offer full academic credits, are transferable to other institutions, and appear on a student's graduate transcript from SPU.** Six credits of these courses may be used with approval as part of the master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction offered at SPU. It is the prerogative of any degree-granting institution to determine whether or not it will accept part or all of similar credits towards its degrees.

In addition, the following are excerpts from the Seattle Pacific University 2013-2014 Catalog:

Since 1936, the University has been fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. It is on the approved list of the American Council on Education and Board of Regents of the State of New York, and its credits are recognized by members of the various regional associations and by leading graduate schools throughout the country.

The University is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) at both basic (undergraduate) and advanced (graduate) levels. The University is a member of the Association of American Colleges and of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. It is fully accredited by the Washington State Board of Education for preparation of elementary and secondary teachers.

Lastly, Washington state teachers routinely take these courses in order to earn endorsements, be recertified and/or progress on the salary schedule. Washington State School Districts, Educational Service Districts as well as the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction accept these 5000 level courses for the above stated purposes.

Sincerely,

Kenda Gatlin
University Registrar