

## Excess Credit Hours

### 45 Hour Rule and 30 Hour Rule

In an effort to encourage students to graduate on a timely basis, the State of Texas has enacted legislation regarding funding for excess undergraduate credit hours (*Texas Education Code Chapter 61, Subchapter C, Section 61.0595*). As a result of this legislation, funding will not be provided to state institutions of higher education for students exceeding the minimum number of hours required for completion of their degree program.

- **30 Hour Rule:** Students initially enrolled as undergraduates in an institution of higher education beginning the 2006 Fall semester and subsequent semesters may not exceed 30 hours more than the minimum number required for the completion of their degree program.
- **45 Hour Rule:** Students initially enrolling as undergraduates in an institution of higher education beginning the 1999 Fall semester, but no later than the 2006 Summer semester, may not exceed 45 hours more than the minimum number required for completion of their degree program.
- **Exemption:** Students who enrolled as undergraduates in an institution of higher education prior to the 1999 Fall semester are exempt from this legislation.

Since funding will not be provided by the State, and as permitted by State law, **UTPA will charge an Excess Credit Hour fee to all students that exceed the semester credit hour limit of their program as follows:**

- \$42 per credit hour – through Summer 2007**
- \$84 per credit hour – Fall 2007 through Summer 2008**
- \$125 per credit hour – Fall 2008 and subsequent semesters**

The semester hours counted toward the excessive credit hour calculation include all hours attempted by the student except:

- semester credit hours earned by the student before receiving a baccalaureate degree that has been previously awarded
- semester credit hours earned by examination or other procedure by which credit is earned without registering for a course for which tuition is charged
- developmental education (remedial) courses, technical courses, workforce education courses funded according to contact hours, or other courses that would not generate academic credit that could be applied toward a degree at The University of Texas-Pan American
- Semester credit hours earned at a private or out-of-state institution
- hours not eligible for formula funding

If you have questions about your tuition and fees under this policy, contact the Registration Accountant at (956) 381-2713.

Students with academic questions are encouraged to contact a Student Development Specialist in the University Retention and Advisement Program at (956) 381-2319.