

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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 2018-2019 Catalog:

*The history of the growth of Seattle Pacific University is linked to the educational community of which it is a part. In successive steps from 1921 to 1937, the University was accredited by the Washington State Board of Education. Since 1936, the University has been accredited by the [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#) (NWCCU).*

*Seattle Pacific is included on the approved list of the Board of Regents of the State of New York and is a member of the [Association of American Colleges & Universities](#) and of the [American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education](#). The University is also a charter member of the [Christian College Consortium](#) and a collaborative partner of the [Council for Christian Colleges and Universities](#), and its credits are recognized by members of the various regional associations and by leading graduate schools throughout the country.*

*The University is approved by the U.S. government for education of veterans and their dependents under the applicable public laws and by the Washington Student Achievement Council's State Approving Agency (SAA) for enrollment for those eligible to receive educational benefits under Title 38 and Title 10, U.S. Code.*

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