The Faculty-Student Research Banking (FSRB) System: A Course Load Model for Faculty Participation in Undergraduate and Graduate Research

FSRB System Details

- Course designations (291/491/682) for underclass, upperclass, and graduate students, respectively, are available in all participating degree programs as “Student-Faculty Research”; students can (re)enroll between 1-3 credits/semester, requiring a minimum of 5 faculty contact hours during the semester and 3 hours of research per week per credit.
- Because projects under 291/491/682 are designed as enhancements to traditional learning formats, no degree or minor program can require 291/491/682 for all its students, nor should a program use this system to cover a gap in its curriculum or staffing.
- Faculty members supervising research will have these 291/491/682 student research credits accrue under their name through the use of section numbers unique to that faculty number (e.g. CHEM-491-80 and CHEM-491-81 represent research credits with two different faculty members).
- An 8:1 ratio represents the “exchange rate” between student research credits and faculty teaching credits.
- Once accrued 291/491/682 research credits reach a value of 24 (corresponding to 3 teaching credits), they become a “course equivalency”, e.g. the equivalent of having taught a full 3-credit course.
- The faculty member can then request the course equivalency be applied in a forthcoming semester, with the effect of reducing the faculty member’s teaching load by one course in that semester.

FSRB Requirements – Students

- Students must obtain faculty approval and register for 291/491/682 credits by completing the OUR registration form in its entirety during the standard course registration enrollment period for the upcoming semester.
- Students must complete Weekly Progress Reports through Blackboard to document student research progress/hours on a weekly basis (student tutorial available). Progress reports will only be accessible to the student for the current week and will become inaccessible after that week has ended to encourage timely completion.
- Students must each submit an individual, unique, comprehensive summary of their research at the end of the semester in a format determined by the faculty mentor (e.g. research report, oral presentation, poster presentation, CUSRD); the final summary (Deliverable) should be uploaded onto Blackboard by the last day of instruction in the semester. If multiple students are working on the same project, EACH must still summit a unique end-of-semester report describing his/her specific contributions to the project.
- Students must complete the minimum required number of hours of research/creative activity corresponding with the number of 291/491/682 credits registered as follows (3 hrs./week/credit, 15 weeks/semester):
  - 1 credit = 45 hours
  - 2 credits = 90 hours
  - 3 credits = 135 hours
- Students must have a minimum of 5 individual faculty contact hours during the semester and must document faculty contact hours by noting them in their Weekly Progress Reports in Blackboard.
- Failure to meet these requirements will result in a grade of “NP” or “F”.

FSRB Requirements – Faculty

- Faculty must be full-time and cannot be on sabbatical or research leave.
- Faculty must review and confirm student research/creative activity hours via the Weekly Progress Reports in Blackboard and transfer the number of hours spent on research/creative activity per week into the Blackboard Grade Center for that particular 291/491/682 course (faculty tutorial available) on a regular basis (recommended weekly); this will allow students to easily track their hours completed during the semester.
- Faculty must have a minimum of 5 individual (not group) contact hours with each student during the semester.
- The default grading for 291/491/682 courses will be P/NP; however, students may request a letter grade upon registration with approval of the faculty mentor and submission of a formal grading rubric prior to registration.
- Failure to meet these requirements will result in forfeiting accrued/earned credits for the semester.

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