

# OIGS Policy Proposal 2011.1

(revised per CoC: 1/31/12)

## **Background:**

Several times in the past year questions have been raised regarding the potential of completing a degree after long separations from the college (one request was to complete degree requirements (9 credit hours of directed electives) after almost 40 years away from ESF). After conducting a quick review of policies at other institutions, it was determined that ESF would benefit from instituting a clear policy on resumption of a degree program after a period of separation from the institution. Following is a list of “statutes of limitations” published for those wishing to resume a “past” degree program after a period of separation; if a student inquires or applies for readmission subsequent to the published limits, they may still pursue a degree, but only under current curriculum requirements:

- HVCC 5 years (from date of matriculation)
- U Cincinnati: 10 years (from date of separation)
- Johns Hopkins U: 10 years (from matriculation)
- Boston U 7 years (from separation)
- Robert Morris: 12 years (from matriculation)
- Indiana U: 8 years (from matriculation)

The Office of Instruction and Graduate Studies requests the addition of a specific time limit on resuming degree programs and/or granting degrees under old curriculum requirements (proposed 10 years) [to be placed in catalog]

Proposed catalog language (in Undergraduate Academic Policies):

### ***Resumption of Degree Programs***

*Students who have withdrawn from matriculated status in a degree program at ESF may seek to resume or complete a degree program with the following conditions:*

1. *A former student must apply for either:*
  - a. *Readmission and resumption of the student’s original degree program and curriculum as described in the college catalog at the time of the student’s original matriculation; or transfer of additional credit from another university sufficient to complete content or credit hour requirements of the student’s original degree program.*
  - b. *Readmission to complete a current ESF degree program and curriculum as described in the current college catalog; or transfer of additional credit from another university sufficient to complete content or credit hour requirements of a current ESF degree program.*
2. *Resumption and completion of original degree programs is permissible only if application for readmission is made no more than **10 years** after the student’s matriculation at ESF.*
3. *Degree completion will be posted to the academic record in the term when the last program requirement was completed. Degrees may not be conferred retroactively.*

4. *Students whose case exceeds the statute of limitation for degree resumption (i.e. 10 years as noted in (2.) above) will be advised by the department regarding those current programs that the student may pursue that most closely match his or her previously completed coursework. Past coursework may be accepted toward completion of a current degree program at the discretion of the department.*
5. *In the event of a dispute resulting from departmental or administrative review of a returning student's academic record, final authority regarding the completion of curricular requirements for degree programs rests with the college President, within the limits prescribed by the NYS Dept. of Education (such as those requiring a minimum number of total credit hours, etc.).*