Assigning Credit to Courses
Proposal from EPC, 29 April 2015

On 25 March the AS&E faculty voted to change the requirements for graduation so that they con-
form to federal requirements, and in particular to assign credit to courses in a way that reflects the
amount of learning time that the course requires.

Today’s proposal is to choose a specific unit of credit for AS&E. There are two options:

**Option 1: Use the Tufts Credit.** One Tufts Credit will be worth 3 semester-hours. Courses will
be assigned a multiple of .25 Tufts Credits, from 0.25 up to 2. Students will need 40 credits to graduate.

**Option 2: Use the Semester-Hour.** Courses will be assigned a whole number of semester-hours,
from 1 to 6. Students will need 120 semester-hours to graduate.

After this choice is made, implementation will get started. This summer, AC3 and EPC will bring
the faculty’s decision to NEASC and check with them on the implementation timeline. Any dates in
the present document are provisional and may change based on consultation with NEASC. Changes
will be announced to students and to the AS&E community as soon as they are approved, but will not
take effect immediately. The new credit requirement for graduation will be phased in gradually for
classes that will matriculate during the transition (and so will have some of their courses under the
old system and some under the new system).

Though we’re not discussing the implementation at today’s meeting, we include some information
below.

During the next two years:

- EPC and the Curricula Committees of the two schools, consulting with other faculty, the Regis-
  trar, and the Deans, as necessary, will write guidelines for assigning the credits to courses.

- Departments and programs will review their courses in light of the credit guidelines. For courses
  that are worth something other than the “standard” value given by the guidelines, the depart-
  ment will supply the correct credit value to its school’s curriculum committee, with justification.
  The curriculum committee will approve or contest the request, according to our existing proce-
  dures. The design of any particular course does not need to change. Courses will be labelled
  based on what they actually consist of, as designed by the faculty who teach them.

- Departments and programs will also review the definitions of their majors and minors. For ex-
  ample, a major may allow 3 elective courses — should that be 3 courses, or 3 Tufts Credits (or 9
  semester-hours)?

- Faculty committees (including EPC, Academic Standing and Honors, Academic Review Board,
  and so on) and the Deans will begin review of all academic policies that currently assume one
course = one credit, such as the definition of full-time status, the rules for Deans’ List honors, the
rules for academic probation, distribution requirements, and all the rest. Any non-trivial changes will require a vote of the faculty.

In Fall 2018 (probably):

- All courses will take on their new credit values.
- Students matriculating that fall will be subject to the new requirements: an undergraduate degree will require a minimum of 40 Tufts Credits or 120 semester-hours.
- New graduation requirements will be phased in gradually. Students who enter between Fall 2015 and Fall 2018 will have both new-style and old-style credit values on their transcripts. A transition plan will determine the requirements for graduation for these entering classes. For GPA calculations, under the Tufts Credit system, courses taken under the old system will still count as 1 Tufts Credit, and under the semester-hour system, courses taken under the old system will count as 4 semester-hours. There will be a “hardship committee” to which students can appeal if they believe these changes have made it difficult for them to graduate.