

Teaching Credit Practice (October 2009)

The Mathematics department has been operating for several years with an informal practice that allows faculty members to teach overloads to bank teaching credit for subsequent semesters. This practice is an outgrowth of a common need for more instruction during the fall semester than during the winter semester, and it allows a block of time for professional travel and uninterrupted research. There is a strong interest among the faculty to continue this practice.

However, the banking of teaching credit must be balanced with the teaching mission of the department and with absences owing to competitive research leaves. Under current practice, teaching credit might be awarded without full knowledge of future departmental teaching needs and if the teaching credit is redeemed for the fall semester, it is counterproductive to the purpose of the practice.

Previous commitments will be honored, but in the interest of continuing banked teaching credit, while taking into account competing interests, the following guidelines will be in effect as we go forward:

- Credit will be awarded for at most one semester's teaching load.
- Except when pre-approved, credit will be redeemed in the spring semester following the semester in which it is awarded.
- The semester without teaching duties is to be used only for research and/or other professional activities.
- If a faculty member will be away from MU for most of the semester, she/he must submit a Request for Leave of Absence (UM form 108) to be approved by the Chair, Dean, and Provost. This will eliminate any possibility that the absence will be misunderstood or misinterpreted.