

UE Impact: Move-3

Undergraduate Education's (UE) fourteen units are diverse, yet ultimately work toward the same goal—enhancing teaching, learning, and overall student success. UE serves the entire University and views issues on a broad, University-wide level, identifying and working to improve policy items that impact teaching and learning on a large scale. We are an effective strategic partner.

One such example of this University-wide impact is the recently completed analysis of the Move-3 Policy within the General Education requirements. The analysis was the result of recommendations after years of discussion and feedback from UE leadership, advisers, faculty, and students, to update and streamline the General Education course requirements for undergraduate students.

Undergraduate Education Units

Division of Undergraduate Studies
Morgan Academic Center | Penn State Learning
Office for General Education
Student Success Center | Student Engagement Network
Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Mentoring
Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence
Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center
Center for Penn State Student Entrepreneurship
Reserve Officers' Training Corps
Prior Learning Assessment
Student Orientation and Transition Programs
Office for Summer Session

Move-3 Policy

An explicit goal of General Education is student exploration and academic risk taking. To help achieve that goal, the General Education program has long had mechanisms for flexibility in meeting requirements, including the Move-3. With Move-3, a student can substitute a course in one of the Knowledge Domain areas of Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences, or Health and Wellness, for a course in one of the other areas.



General Education Knowledge Domain Requirements

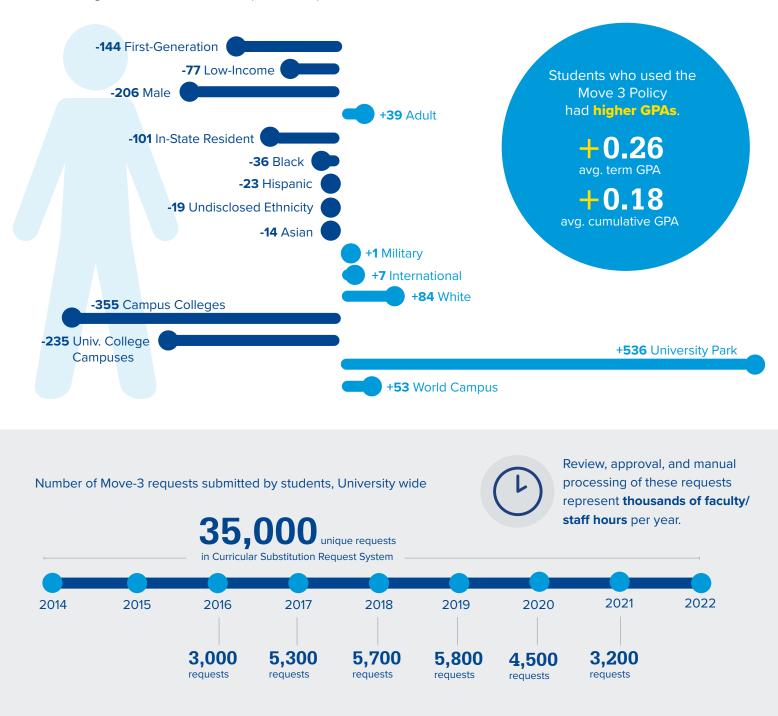
A Move-3 substitution required a student to submit a petition for permission from their adviser or dean's representative and receive approval. This added complexity to the program and burden to the student, especially those who may not have known to ask or may not be comfortable asking for exceptions.



Move-3 substitutions were also burdensome for staff, who had to make the changes manually to the student's Academic Requirements report in LionPATH.

Significant Insights from UE Move-3 Policy Analysis

The following groups used Move-3 either **less** or **more** or than expected proportionally, on average over five fall semseters (2017–2021).



Impact: Policy change will remove barriers and create efficiencies University-wide

Using this data, which was analyzed each year beginning in 2016, the University Faculty Senate was able to make a datadriven decision to reorganize General Education credits to codify the Move-3 flexibility and reduce the need for students to make specific requests. Changes will not only benefit students, especially those who data indicate had been using the policy less than expected, but will significantly reduce the need for manual approvals and substitutions by staff. It will also provide clarity for students who change programs. The updates align with core institutional values to maintain curricular flexibility and intellectual exploration. The policy change will go into effect for students matriculating in summer 2023 and after.

UE's Office for General Education, Prior Learning Assessment, Division of Undergraduate Studies, Institutional Research, and Communication units, as well as the Policies Influencing Equity Taskforce (a Faculty Senate and UE initiative), participated in this work.