To expand capacity, enhance the quality of the educational experience students receive, and to encourage timely progress toward a degree, the USM will encourage students to take advantage of alternative means of earning academic degree credit. Options available to students include: online courses; registration in special sessions; independent study or undergraduate research; study abroad; service learning; internships; credit by exam; and advanced placement credits.

On average, first-time freshmen will complete at least 12 credits required for graduation outside of the traditional classroom experience as part of their undergraduate programs.

Institutions that admit first-time freshmen shall report periodically on the average number of alternative credits completed by baccalaureate degree recipients.

This policy is effective for first-time freshmen who matriculate in the Fall 2005 semester.