

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Guidance on General Education Revisions to Come into Compliance with EP.17.74

Background

EP.17.74, Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines for General Education Courses, involved four changes to the campus-wide General Education (Gen Ed) requirements for all baccalaureate degree programs:

- 1) Reduce the required hours in Natural Science & Technology from 9 to 6.
- 2) Reduce the required hours in Humanities & the Arts from 9 to 6.
- 3) Reduce the required hours in Social & Behavioral Science from 9 to 6.
- 4) Introduce the requirement to take a course in the U.S. Minority Cultures category (typically 3 hours), increasing the number of hours in the Cultural Studies category from 6 to 9.

In addition, the policy also removed any subcategory-specific requirements within the first three areas.

In the process of adopting a standard baccalaureate degree program template for Gen Eds across campus, it has become apparent that many programs who list Gen Ed requirements in the Programs of Study have not integrated some or all of these changes into their programs and have one or more of the outdated requirements noted above still listed. Further, the Gen Ed requirements listed in these Programs of Study may or may not agree with what is programmed in student degree audits (DARS), as the unit may have made updates to the DARS to reflect the changes in EP.17.74 even if they did not update their program of study. It is therefore difficult to determine how many programs have outdated Gen Ed requirements in one or more categories and what the aggregate impact on Gen Ed courses will be as all programs adopt the campus Gen Ed template and thereby update their requirements.

Typically, the Educational Policy Committee asks sponsors to submit acknowledgement letters from affected units when a proposal to revise a program eliminates a course from that unit from its program of study. In the case of the revisions to come into compliance with the Gen Ed requirements listed above, it is difficult to identify which units are likely to be affected by the changes since they involve changing how many courses students select from large lists of options that are offered by units spread across the campus. While any single program updating its Gen Ed requirements to agree with EP.17.74 may have a small effect on any particular course, if many units do so at the same time (as is anticipated to occur in the near future), the aggregate impact may be significant.

Guidance

Programs updating their general education requirements to incorporate the above changes to bring their Program of Study up to the current campus general education requirements will not be required to obtain letters of acknowledgement from all units offering courses in these general education categories before making the update.

The campus should be informed that enrollment patterns in one or more of these general education categories may change slightly as these updates are incorporated.

Additional

Proposals making updates to adhere to the campus general education requirements following the template will continue to go through the governance process.

Programs removing **specific** courses from the requirements listed in the Program of Study, including specific courses listed as General Education will still be required to provide letters of acknowledgement from the unit(s) offering the specified course(s) and all other criteria and procedures.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY
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