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EP.24.068
October 19, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
(Final; Action)

EP.24.068 Implementation of Upper-Division Coursework Requirement

BACKGROUND

In Spring 2025, the Senate approved EP.24.068, which established a campus-wide definition of upper-division coursework and a requirement that undergraduate students complete at least 40 hours of upper-division coursework, beginning with students entering the university in Fall 2028. Although this seems to be far off in the future, meeting this date will require creating a system to track upper-division coursework, which means that planning needs to start now.

As emphasized in EP.24.068, the 40-hour upper-division requirement will apply at the level of the individual student, rather than requiring each undergraduate degree program to prescribe 40 hours of upper-division coursework. Nevertheless, units are responsible for ensuring that their curricula provide students with a realistic opportunity to satisfy this requirement within the normal hours required for graduation. The requirement will eventually be incorporated into § 3-801 (Credit Requirements for Degrees) of the Student Code, which establishes general credit requirements for bachelor's degrees.

Definition of Upper-Division Coursework

EP.24.068 defines upper-division coursework as:

Definition of Upper-Division: For the purposes of satisfying the IBHE requirement, "Upper-Division" courses are defined on our campus as courses at the 300 or 400 level as well as designated 200-level courses. For each currently existing course at the 200 level, the offering department should, in consultation with higher units such as its school (if applicable) and college, designate whether that course should be treated as Upper-Division.

Consistent with the Provost's guidelines for cross-listed courses, the determination should be made in consultation with the other units offering the course, with the controlling department responsible for communicating the resulting designation.

As discussed in EP.24.068, historical course-numbering practices on this campus have resulted in some advanced courses remaining at the 200 level. The proposal therefore provides a mechanism for units to designate existing 200-level courses as upper-division rather than requiring those courses to be renumbered. Consistent with our general practice of entrusting academic units to make these kinds of curricular decisions, the determination of which 200-level courses should be designated as upper- division is being left to the offering departments,

in consultation with their schools and colleges. Colleges may differ in how they choose to coordinate this process across their units, so we encourage units to begin communicating with their colleges early.

EP, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the Registrar are working to ensure that the campus remains on track for Fall 2028 implementation. Meeting that deadline will also require colleges and academic units to do their part. In particular, units need to begin reviewing their 200-level courses now so that the resulting designations can be reviewed and coded in university systems in time for implementation.

Units should begin this review now, with the goal of providing their determinations to their colleges in sufficient time for each college to compile a complete college-level list. **The completed college-level lists are due by April 30, 2027. This deadline is firm.** Additional information about the process and format for collecting and submitting this information will be provided by the beginning of 2027. Units do not need to wait for those implementation details to begin reviewing their courses.

General Education Courses

Under the General Education Guidelines, courses generally may not be designated both as General Education and upper-division. Advanced Composition and Quantitative Reasoning II are exceptions. Approved 200-level Advanced Composition or Quantitative Reasoning II courses that are designated as upper-division will not require additional General Education review or lose General Education status as a consequence of that designation.

For all other General Education categories, 200-level courses designated as upper-division will be decertified or denied General Education certification in accordance with the General Education Guidelines.

College Coordination

Implementation will be coordinated at the college level. Each college will be asked to identify a representative who will serve as the point of contact for this process, coordinate with academic units within the college, and compile the college's final list for submission by April 30, 2027.

Further information about the collection and submission process will be provided to the college representatives. In the meantime, colleges and units should begin the work of identifying 200-level courses that meet the EP.24.068 definition.

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