

Proposal on the General Education Requirements

The Undergraduate Council proposes that the University Senate approve the Report of the Committee on General Education (revised Feb 2013) for implementation in Fall 2014.

The University Senate endorses the creation of an ad-hoc University Senate Stony Brook Curriculum Certification Committee, for the purpose of certifying courses as meeting the General Education Guidelines.

Background:

- As charged by the University Senate on 29 November, the revision includes a technology requirement as part of the “Demonstrate Versatility” requirement, and corresponding revision to the “Follow up on their interests” category (now called “Pursue Deeper Understanding”). In addition, the STAS requirement (Understand Relationships between Science or Technology and the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences) has been moved to its own category, “Explore Interconnectedness”, in order to better indicate its role in the requirements.
- The proposal includes a requirement that all graded requirements be fulfilled with a grade of C or better. This has been endorsed by the Undergraduate Council and by the Arts & Sciences senate.
- We have not yet been able to determine which, if any, adjustments or waivers may need to be made to accommodate undergraduate programs in Stony Brook Medicine. We ask that the University Senate authorize the UGC to approve necessary accommodations yet to be determined, with oversight by the Senate Executive Committee.
- The ad-hoc University Senate Curriculum Certification Committee will consist of representatives from Arts & Sciences, CEAS, and other divisions as appropriate. For efficiency and practicality, this committee must have significant overlap with the A&S Curriculum Committee, since at least initially, more than 900 courses which need to be reviewed are housed by CAS and need to be reviewed by A&S CC anyway.
- The Provost’s office will provide for the record keeping and documentation of this committee.
- Once the ad-hoc University Senate General Education Curriculum Committee evaluates all existing courses, the UGC and the General Education Steering and Implementation Committees will recommend whether this committee should be maintained as a standing committee of the University Senate.