




INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

To: Fort Wayne Senate

From: Educational Policy Committee
S. Hollander, chair 

Date: March 18, 1996

Subject: Amendments of the general-education program (amends SD 93-14)

Disposition: To the Presiding Officer for implementation effective retroactively at the start of the fall 1995 semester

Whereas, The General Education Subcommittee has approved the following proposed changes in the general-education program, and rationales for them; and

Whereas, The Educational Policy Committee approves of the proposal;

Resolved, That the proposed amendments to SD 93-14 be adopted; and

Resolved, That the changes be effective retroactive to the start of the fall 1995 semester; and

Resolved, That in applying these changes to the academic program of students beginning prior to fall 1997, schools liberally apply the transitional provisions of the 4/28/95 VCAA memorandum, "Guidelines for Implementation of the General Education Program."

Amendments of the General-Education Program

The changes proposed here are an attempt to simplify the current general-education requirements in a manner that addresses some of the most common objections received by the General Education Subcommittee while also preserving the basic outline approved by the Fort Wayne Senate.

1. Proposed Change Eliminate area assignment for baccalaureate degree programs.
Rationale The area designation is rather arbitrary for many departments and programs. Departments already submit course proposals in different areas from the one to which they are assigned.
2. Proposed Change Require all students to take two courses (six credits) from each of Areas II, III, and IV (plus three credits in Area V, as now).
Rationale There have been numerous objections to the stipulation that students are exempt from general-education courses in the area to which their major department is assigned. Many faculty feel that students need courses in other disciplines closely related to their major.
The effect of adopting this change would be to make general-education requirements the same for *all* students pursuing bachelor's degrees at IPFW. This should make it easier to advise students. In addition, it would simplify transfers from one IPFW school or program to another, and it would greatly simplify the task of determining how many general-education courses to schedule each semester.
3. Proposed Change Allow departments/programs to count *one* general-education course taught in the major for *one* general-education course in Areas II -V.
Rationale Programs that must answer to accrediting agencies for very specific requirements may need this sort of flexibility, and others may find it useful.
4. Proposed Change Eliminate the area designation for Advanced Study courses.
Rationale Some courses already proposed and approved for Advanced Study cross disciplinary boundaries to such an extent that the area designation becomes an arbitrary choice. It was the intent of the original general-education curriculum to encourage interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and cross-disciplinary courses, and the proposed change is meant to support that goal.

Summary of proposed changes

<u>Area</u>	<u>Current Requirement</u>	<u>Proposed Requirement</u>
I. Foundation Skills	9 credits	9 credits
II. Physical and Natural World	0-9 credits	6 credits
III. Culture and Society	0-9 credits	6 credits
IV. Humanistic Thought	0-9 credits	6 credits
V. Artistic Expression	3 credits	3 credits
VI. Advanced Study	6 credits (two courses from two areas, II through V)	6 credits (two approved Area VI courses)
Total	36 credits	36 credits

Currently, students who are exempt from general-education courses in the subject area of their major take 18 credits in Areas II through IV, while SPFA majors take 21 credits in Areas II through IV and none in Area V.

Under the proposed requirement, all students would take 18 credits in Areas II through IV and 3 credits in Area V. Of course, the current policy of allowing departments and schools to specify additional requirements for their students would remain unchanged.