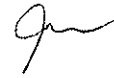


Degree Programs Committee Report

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TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell
Degree Programs Committee: Programs

SUBJECT: Proposals UC 10191 08F, UC 10219 08F, UC 10228 09S, and UC 10229 09S

DATE: February 18, 2009

The Committee met on Wednesday, February 11 to consider proposals UC 10191 08F, UC 10219 08F, UC 10228 09S, and UC 10229 09S. Participating in the discussion were committee members Betty Barr, Christina Hughes, Iain Morrison, and Richard Scamell. Scott Bassinger and Frank Kelley attended the meeting as guests.

UC 10191 08F – Mechanical Engineering Degree Plan, Fall 2009

This proposal contains a change to the catalog wording that reduces the number of hours in the Mechanical Engineering Degree Plan from 127 hours to 124 hours by reducing the number of senior electives from five to four. The Committee supports this request but suggests that the catalog wording be changed from that given in the proposal.

Recommended Catalog Wording in UC 10191 08F

Students with senior standing in Mechanical Engineering would be required to take four MECE electives which would be selected from the following; three MECE 5000-level courses and one non-MECE 3000+ - level course from other departments in engineering or math or science. Exceptions are allowed to satisfy requirements for a minor and for a Senior Honors thesis. In each exception, one MECE 5000-level course and the non-MECE course would be used to satisfy the requirements.

Recommended Catalog Wording By Degree Programs Committee

Students with senior standing in Mechanical Engineering would be required to take four electives selected from the following; three MECE 5000-level courses and one non-MECE 3000+ - level course from other departments in engineering or math or science. Exceptions are allowed to satisfy requirements for a minor and for a Senior Honors thesis. In each exception, one MECE 5000-level course and the non-MECE course would be used to satisfy the requirements.

The recommended catalog wording by the committee essentially replaces the term "four MECE electives", with "four electives" since one of the four electives must be a non-MECE 3000+-level course.

UC 10228 09S – Bachelor of Arts Degree Language Requirements

To earn a Bachelor of Arts degree, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) requires students to complete 6 hours of language instruction at the 2000 level in one foreign language. By "complete" CLASS has always understood this requirement to mean that students must master the language at the level attained by completing the second course in the intermediate language sequence. Thus a student who places out of the first intermediate course, 2301, and takes the second course, 2302, is considered to have completed the requirement despite the fact that he or she may have only taken three hours of coursework (i.e., it is possible for a student who is a "heritage" speaker* of a language to place out of 2301 and take just 2302). It is also possible for a student to place out of both courses without

* A "heritage" speaker is someone who spoke the language at home but did not receive enough formal instruction in grammar to successfully place out of the second intermediate language course.

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having received any formal college credit. Thus the purpose of UC 10228 09S is to change the catalogue language that describes this requirement in the following manner.

Current Catalogue Language: Candidates for any Bachelor of Arts degree must complete at least six semester hours at the 2000-level in one foreign language. Students may satisfy part or all of this requirement by foreign language courses at a higher level or by placement examination with credit.

Proposed Catalogue Language: Candidates for any Bachelor of Arts degree must complete at least six semester hours at the 2000-level in one foreign language. Students may satisfy part or all of this requirement by foreign language courses at a higher level or by placement examination ~~with credit~~.

Under the current catalogue language, there have been students in Natural Sciences and Mathematics were not certified for graduation because they did not have six hours of credit in a language. The deletion of "with credit" from the catalogue language is intended to make it clear that (a) it is possible to demonstrate proficiency in a language in ways that are not necessarily accompanied by the awarding of college credit and (b) such proficiency meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirement. Students who demonstrate proficiency in a language without receiving any college credit are required to take six hours of general elective in something other than a foreign language.

UC 10219 08F – Proposal for a 120 Hour Requirement for the BBA

This proposal reduces the number of required semester credit hours for the BBA degree from 123 to 120 by removing MATH 1310 – College Algebra as a degree requirement of the BBA degree and treating it instead as a prerequisite for both MATH 1313 – Finite Mathematics With Applications and MATH 1314 – Calculus for Business and the Life Sciences that can be satisfied either by successfully passing either a placement exam or MATH 1310.

Comments

1. Under the existing BBA degree program, students who place out of MATH 1310 are "penalized" in the 123 hour degree program because even if they place out they still need three hours of a general elective to graduate. In other words, the approximately 25 percent of all business students who place out of MATH 1310 are still three hours short of the 123 hours required to graduate even though they have taken all required courses for the degree.
2. This proposal is no different from the current catalog requirements for a degree in the College of Engineering which assumes that students have College Algebra and so not include it in their degree count.
3. The current focus of the Bauer College of Business is on recruiting students who do not need to take MATH 1310.

UC 10229 09S – Updating Catalog Information on Study Aboard

This proposal comes from the Department of Hispanic Studies in conjunction with the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and essentially calls for updating catalog information on study abroad programs reflecting the split between the two departments which became official in the Fall 2008 semester. In addition, the proposal also includes a request from the Department of Hispanic Studies to require that Hispanic Studies majors must take with the Department of Hispanic Studies a minimum of 15 of the 27 credit hours required for the major and that Hispanic Studies minors must take 9 of the 15 credit hours required for the minor in residency, excluding credit by exam and study abroad. The Committee supports this request but suggests that the catalog wording be changed from that given on page 4 in the proposal.

Recommended Catalog Wording in UC 10229 09S

For information and applications for Special Programs to Latin America and Spain, contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies at 713-743-3007 and the Office of Study Abroad. Spanish majors must take a minimum of 15 credit hours, and minors 9 credit hours, in residence with the Department of Hispanic Studies not including credit by exam or study abroad.

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Recommended Catalog Wording By Degree Programs Committee

For information and applications for Special Programs to Latin America and Spain, contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies at 713-743-3007 and the Office of Study Abroad. Spanish majors must take in residence on campus a minimum of 15 credit hours, and Spanish minors must take in residence on campus ~~9~~ credit hours, with the Department of Hispanic Studies not including credit by exam or study abroad.

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Recommendation

The Degree Programs unanimously supports each of these proposals.