

Effective: October 1997

Curriculum Approval Policy
APPROVAL PROCESS for COURSES and PROGRAMS

Revised: Faculty Senate, March 17, 2009;
Deans' Council, August 12, 2009;
Faculty Senate, June 05, 2012
Deans' Council, June 27, 2012
Faculty Senate, December 3, 2013
Deans' Council, December 11, 2013

The following approval process is applicable to all courses and programs in associate degree and baccalaureate program offerings. New courses with a distance learning (DL) focus will follow the approval process for all new offerings. Explicit guidelines may be found in the *Distance Learning (DL) Course Approval Process* for converting existing courses into a Distance Learning delivery format.

Curriculum Committee Reviews

The addition of new courses and programs and the addition of specific designations of existing courses (e.g., General Education course labels, including, but not limited to, Community and Cultural Diversity, G1, G2, G3, Laboratory, Perspectives, and Writing labels) will be proposed by one or more departments and submitted to the appropriate school curriculum committee(s) for evaluation. Proposals receiving negative decisions shall be returned to the initiating department(s), accompanied by a statement explaining the rejection rationale.

Proposals approved by the school curriculum committee(s) shall be forwarded to the appropriate Faculty Senate curricular committee.¹ Proposals not approved by the Faculty Senate curricular committee shall be returned to the initiating department(s) accompanied by an explanation for the committee's decision. Should a proposal not be approved on two separate reviews by the school curriculum committee or a Faculty Senate curricular committee, the initiating department(s) shall have the right to appeal to the Faculty Senate for approval to continue through the curricular process. Proposals that are not acted upon within 30 days of submission to a school curriculum committee during the academic year² will move on for consideration by the next curriculum committee. Should another Faculty Senate curricular committee fail to act upon a proposal within two months after receipt, the initiating body shall have the right to appeal to the Faculty Senate, whose decision shall be final.

¹ All major and minor course and program changes in undergraduate and in-service teacher education courses shall be submitted for approval to the Teacher Education Council, as described in the policy on "Major and Minor Course and/or Program Change Procedures."

² Since Faculty Senate committees do not typically meet outside of the regular fall and spring semesters, the waiting periods apply only to the regular fall and spring semesters.

Any decision of a Faculty Senate curricular committee may be reviewed by the Faculty Senate; however, if a decision on a new course or the new designation of existing courses (e.g., General Education course labels, including, but not limited to, Community and Cultural Diversity, G1, G2, G3, Laboratory, Perspectives, and Writing labels) is not challenged by the next senate meeting after the Faculty Senate curricular committee decision, the decision will be considered approved by the senate.

Administrative Approval and Catalog Listing

New courses and designations must be duly approved by the Provost before being listed among a semester's course offerings or being placed in the undergraduate catalog.

Each course description listed in the catalog shall include a statement of the number and type of class meeting hours per week and when the course is normally offered.

Decanal Analyses of Resource Implications

Course and program development and modifications frequently have serious implications for resource allocations. To ensure early administrative response to the financial implications of a curricular proposal, proposals submitted to the school curriculum committee(s) for evaluation will be submitted simultaneously to the appropriate school Dean. The school Dean will provide an assessment of the impact on resources in writing to the initiating department. Nothing in this statement shall be interpreted to mean that the Dean can delay or prevent courses and programs from being considered by the appropriate departmental, school, or University committee.

Experimental Courses

In order to encourage experimentation and to provide timely courses in a variety of areas, departments are permitted to offer one experimental course per calendar year, with the approval of the department. The course will not be offered again until it has been evaluated by the students and the department and approved according to the regular approval process.

1. All experimental courses will be designated with a number ending in "79."
2. Experimental courses may not count in General Education nor carry writing, community and cultural diversity, or perspectives designations.
3. As part of the course approval process, a department may request that a course originally offered on an experimental basis count retroactively as General Education and/or with a specific designation.

Interdisciplinary Courses

"Interdisciplinary courses" are defined to include the following categories: 1) courses that reflect inter-relationships among two or more disciplines, 2) Perspectives courses with interdisciplinary content, 3) courses cross-listed by two or more departments, or 4) divisional courses as provided and defined in the "Course Identification Policy."

In proposing interdisciplinary courses, departments of all disciplines significantly involved must be consulted by the course proposer(s). The results of such consultation shall accompany the course proposal through all stages of the course and program approval process.

Revision Notes

12-3-2013 Faculty Senate recommended placing a time limit of 30 days for review by school curriculum committees.