



THE COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

College Curriculum Committee Academic Year 2014-2015

The notes below summarize the activities of the College Curriculum Committee for the academic year 2014-15. These include the approval of new majors, minors, and clusters; consideration of changes in several curriculum-related policies; discussion of assessment and curricular review following the Middle States Accreditation review process.

Approved Majors

- BA and BS in Data Science

The Data Science majors focus on developing and applying computation methods for statistical analysis and discovery in large-scale data sets. Graduates will be proficient in algorithms and programming, have a deep understanding of statistical methods, and be able to apply their abilities to significant real-world problems. The concept of “cross training” is built into the design of the program, in that in addition to learning computing and mathematics, students will delve deeply into a field where data science methods can be applied.

- BA in Italian

This major offers a range of courses and clusters in Italian language and culture from the elementary to the advanced level and a wide selection of upper level courses in Italian literature spanning the Middle Ages, the modern, and the contemporary periods, with substantial components of- and relative cross-listings with- comparative literature, French, history, philosophy, religion, classics, film, English, art, and digital media studies. (Not approved by Steering Committee.)

Majors Under Review

None.

Approved Minors

- Minor in Computational Biology

This minor prepares students for one of the fastest growing areas of research in Biology that has been revolutionized by high-throughput data and bioinformatics.

New Clusters

- Understanding the Biological World – Biology – N1BI0003
This cluster specifically targets humanities and social science majors with no pre-med interests who would like to develop a “working knowledge” of biology.
- Sonic Arts and Technology - Audio and Music Engineering – N4AME001
This cluster gives students exposure to the fundamental and practice of audio recording, sound design, and computer creation and manipulation of sound and music.
- Portuguese – Modern Languages and Cultures – H1POR001
This cluster offers students the opportunity to develop their studies focus on the Lusophone world. It is an important cluster for those interested in Latin America studies, European studies, Literature and culture.

Changes/Modifications

- Changes were approved for the following **majors**: Brain and Cognitive Sciences; Biology; Biomedical Engineering; Chemical Engineering; Computer Science; Digital Media Studies; Geological Sciences; Mathematics-Statistics; Mechanical Engineering.
- New Honors program, and Distinction criteria, approved for American Studies major.
- New Honors criteria approved for Religion and Classics
- A new upper-level writing course sequence was approved to allow WRT 105A and 105B, each carrying 2 credits, to fulfill the primary writing requirement.
- **Pass/Fail grading was approved for PHY 101.**
- **Summer or Spring break courses abroad were approved: CHE 392, CSP 365, SP/REL course.**
- The Bachelor of Music degree may be considered as a potential “double major” required for the new BA in Business.
- Changes were approved for the following **minors**: Environmental Engineering; Legal Studies

Policy Change

- **Academic Honesty**

In fall 2013, the College Academic Honesty Advisory Council (CAHAC) was created to revisit the current policy on academic honesty. The CAHAC was comprised of faculty, staff, and both undergraduate and graduate students. Acting on the recommendation of the CAHAC, the CCC reviewed and approved of a new proposed academic honesty policy. The most significant changes in the policy include a requirement for faculty to engage in educating students about academic honesty in their courses; increased visibility for the policy as students apply to and enter the College; the creation of the Academic Honesty Advisory Council (housed in CETL) – later eliminated; the creation of a warning letter; and increasing transparency regarding violations and a range of sanctions.

Review of Longitudinal Academic Data

- Fall semester grade point averages
- Courses with over 100 registrants, fall and spring
- Criteria for Latin Honors

Discussions

- **Transfer courses**

The CCC discussed whether there should be a limit on the number of online courses accepted as transfer courses. Departments currently make all decisions concerning majors and minors, and the College Center for Advising Services make decisions for elective credit using standard criteria. Since the quality of online courses is highly variable, the same as “taught” courses, the decision was that no limit be set. This in turn led to the decision to remove the limit stating a maximum of two online Nursing courses may be transferred in to count toward an AS&E degree.

- **Review of the curriculum**

Coming out of the Middle States Accreditation Review, a committee was established to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Rochester curriculum. The committee met bi-weekly throughout the spring 2015 semester with plans to continue in the fall. The committee was comprised of faculty, administrative staff, and students.

- **Clusters**

The Curriculum Review Committee proposed that department chairs and program directors remove from their clusters any course that has not been taught for the last five years and that, further, Suzanne O'Brien remove those courses herself if departments do not review their clusters. The CCC authorized this special update of the Cluster Search Engine.

- **Final exams**

The CCC discusses potential remedies for students who have three final exams scheduled in one day and cannot make alternate arrangements themselves, as well as students who are to have extended time for finals that result in scheduling conflicts. Solutions include notifying students more energetically that the final exam schedule is available when they register and asking the Registrar to produce each student's final exam schedule after registration. Perhaps the Registrar could include final exam times in the schedule that students build when registering online. Departments can be encouraged to include final exam information in the descriptions on the CDCS. We will continue to encourage students with three exams on one day to consult with the instructors for flexibility. If they're unable to resolve the problem, they can come to the Dean's Office where help may be available.

Curriculum Committee Members, 2014-2015

Chair, Michael Jarvis	History
Matt BaileyShea	Music
Paul Funkenbush	Mechanical Engineering
Bruce Jacobs	Political Science
John Jaenike	Biology
Jennifer Grotz	English
Steve McAleavey	Biomedical Engineering
Lynne Orr	Physics and Astronomy
Richard Feldman	College Deans' Office
Suzanne O'Brien	College Deans' Office
Steven Wegman	Student Association Academic Affairs Committee