

College Curriculum Committee Report Academic Year 2020-2021

The notes below summarize the activities of the College Curriculum Committee for the academic year 2020-21.

New Majors

- BS in Clinical and Translational Science – fully approved by NYSED
- BA in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics – fully approved by NYSED

Changes/Modifications

Changes were approved for the following **majors/minors** – fully approved by the Steering Committee of the Faculty Council

- Business (added Business and Computer Science Information Systems Track)
- Business (additions of courses to various track of the BS in Business and to the minor)
- Computer Science (removed non-departmental elective option for BA and BS degree)
- Dance (allowed for course – DANC 365 - to be taken for up to 12 credits for degree)
- Earth and Environmental Sciences (exemption from the rules prohibiting both major and minor degrees from the same department)
- Environmental Studies (new courses to BA degree)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering (modification to structure of courses related to ABET accreditation)
- Public Health (addition of courses to various majors and minors within program)

New Certificate

- UX Certificate – fully approved by the Steering Committee of the Faculty Council

Faculty-led Study Abroad

- Summer 2021: Dante Alighieri in Poppi 1321-2021 – Faculty-Led Program in Italy

Policy Changes –

- Credit hour cap – the Dean of the College updated the committee on plans to cap enrollment at 24 credits. This will be effective starting in spring 2022 for first-year students and fall 2022 for all other students.
- Distinction levels in majors – the committee requested information on departmental requirements for distinction levels across majors. After reviewing this information, the committee decided not to establish standardized requirements for distinction, high distinction, and highest distinction across College majors.
- Elimination of the option of a quadruple major – the committee voted to eliminate the option of a quadruple major. This was effective spring 2021 on all new or revised major declaration forms.

- Individualized interdepartmental majors – changes effective fall 2021.
 - Removed a formal option for proposing individualized clusters; students can still petition the Committee on Individualized Interdepartmental Programs to do this.
 - Added a new requirement for students to declare interdepartmental majors by the end of their junior year.
- Overlaps and clusters - the committee clarified the cluster overlap policy by determining that two courses in a cluster must always be unique to that cluster, even if the other program of study (e.g., major, minor) is not being used to meet divisional requirements. This went into effect spring 2021.
- S/F grading – in response to faculty request, the committee approved: that instructors could identify students taking a course with the S/F option *retrospectively* after final grades were submitted. This could be done as part of assessment activities or for other related evaluative purposes.

Ongoing Policy Discussions

- AP Credit – review proposal that newly admitted first-year College or transfer students be allowed to use a maximum of 16 AP and other exam credits toward their overall degree requirements. The cap applies to credit only; students would continue to be able to use their AP exam scores for placement purposes with departmental approval. The committee suggested the policy change might specify that students can use 16 AP/exam credits *toward a minimum of 128 credits*. Pending additional feedback from departments and final decision.
- Overlaps: the committee evaluated two proposals.
 - Standardized list of courses that are exempt from the overlap rule – the committee approved requesting departmental feedback on this list, pending further review and final decision.
 - Unique courses – this would replace the current overlap system (counting overlapping courses) with a system that determined the number of unique courses within a major or minor; the committee expressed interest in the idea and approved obtaining feedback from departments; pending further discussion.
- Add/drop – the committee discussed a proposal to move the add period to two weeks and the drop period to three weeks, rather than the current policy of four weeks for both. Pending further discussion.
- Diversity requirement - the committee discussed a diversity requirement (course requirement) for students. Pending follow-up from student representatives.
- Land acknowledgement: requested more information on a proposal to add language to syllabi that acknowledged the Seneca Nation, on whose ancestral lands the UR resides. Pending follow-up from Dean's Office.