

College Curriculum Committee Report Academic Year 2021-2022

The notes below summarize the activities of the College Curriculum Committee for the academic year 2021-22.

Approved Majors

- BS in Political Science – fully approved by NYSED

New Minors

None.

New Clusters

None.

Change/Modifications

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

- Biological Sciences (BS) – restructured biochemistry into a separate lecture and 1-credit, adding one credit to some UPBM majors
- Business – added new course options for majors and minor
- Chemistry – modified minor to only be completed through use of departmental courses.
- Dance and Dance studies (BA) – made minor modifications to the two Dance majors. Changes will modify the subject areas under which students takes dance courses within the majors
- Earth & Environmental Science (BA/BS) – added new course options
- Film and Media Studies (BA) – added senior project capstone option for students
- History major – added new focus area (Middle East)
- Linguistics major – added additional options for upper-level writing
- Mechanical Engineering (BS) – reformulated lab courses to allow for better training of students in lab instrumentation
- Music major – added new focus area (Conducting)
- Political Science (BS) – added new focus area (Race, Ethnicity, and Identity)
- Public Health major – made changes to Research Honors – modified structure of courses and moved process earlier to assist students in developing projects

New Certificates

None.

Faculty-led Study Abroad

None.

Procedural Updates

- **Forms** – developed standardized forms for submitting changes to new and revised majors and minors.

Policy Changes

- **AP credit cap** – newly admitted first-year college or transfer students will be allowed to use a maximum of 16 AP and other exam credits toward their overall degree requirements. Students may use additional exam scores for placement into more advanced courses. Effective starting Fall 2022.
- **Overlap policy revision (exempt course list)** – approved standardized list of courses exempt from the overlap rule.
- **Engineering – WRTG 273 – Overlap Policy Exemption** – approved exemption for WRTG 273 from the overlap rule, and addition to the approved standardized list of courses. The course is a Hajim Dean's Office requirement for all majors in the school.
 - Approved an addendum that students double majoring across several Hajim School disciplines are restricted to using WRTG 273 for upper-level writing for only one of these majors. These are the majors in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Data Science, Engineering Science, and Computer Science.
- **Internships** – confirmed that students may receive both academic credit and a stipend for their internship experience.

Ongoing Policy Discussions

- **Timing of Course Evaluations** – discussed a memo outlining a student request that course evaluations run through the exam period. The memo argued that this would allow students to have a more complete picture of the course before submitting an evaluation, and that this would be especially useful for smaller courses. Current practice is that course evaluations end the day before exams, based on the idea that poor performance on final exams might shape (bias) student evaluations of the course. The committee briefly discussed the merits of both approaches and decided to take this issue up more fully in the future.
- **Guidelines for Internship Credit Hours** – evaluated Dean's office proposal to clarify how credit was assigned to internships, based on concerns that some undergraduate students were attempting to work full-time at an internship site while also being a full-time student. The proposal had two parts. The first was to limit students to part-time internships during the academic year, which was defined as 20 hours or less. The second was associate each credit of internship with roughly five hours of work per week, e.g., a 20 hour per week internship would be 4 credits, a 20 hour. The committee approved the first part of the proposal and decided to evaluate the second part more fully at a later date.