



Date: Oct. 23, 2020

To: Talia Bettcher, Academic Senate Chair

From: Arash Jamehbozorg, Educational Policy Committee Chair

Copies: R. Roquemore, M. Hawley, C. Pugh

Subject: Proposed Modification to Curricular Policies - Chapter IV of the Faculty Handbook (EPC Memo 20-06)

In light of EO 1071 which mandates each graduate program to have a common core of more than 50% of the total units required by the program, the EPC proposes the following modifications to the Curricular Policies. Here are the rationales for the proposed changes:

- Line 5: The word GRADUATE is added to make sure the policy covers graduate programs as well.
- Lines 6-15: These lines are deleted since a more general language will cover this part.
- Lines 15-20: The language is added here to state that the 50% rule is applied to both undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Line 25: The word APPROPRIATE is added since the policy is applied to both undergraduate and graduate programs and each one will be reviewed by the appropriate committee.
- Line 28: The GRADUATE STUDIES SUBCOMMITTEE is added here since this subcommittee is in charge of graduate programs.

1 **Curricular Policies**

2 Responsibility for the development of the curriculum rests with the faculty, subject to system guidelines in
3 the **Administrative Code, Title 5**, and in other pertinent statutory documents.

4 New degree programs, including options and concentrations, are projected on the University's Academic
5 Master Plan prior to their detailed design. Undergraduate AND GRADUATE degree programs with
6 options, concentrations, or special emphases must have a common core requirement of at least five
7 courses. Departments/divisions/schools may request a variance based on the standards of the
8 discipline. This variance must be approved through academic governance processes. Each graduate
9 degree program with options, concentrations or special emphases must include a common core
10 experience. Each college within the University must establish a policy defining acceptable core
11 experiences. Each college within the University must establish a policy defining acceptable core
12 experiences for graduate degrees within the college. This college policy shall be subject to approval by
13 the Curriculum Subcommittee and the Educational Policy Committee. Justification for their addition to the
14 program is developed concurrently, in terms of academic and professional needs, student and community
15 interests, and fiscal feasibility. MAJOR OR PROGRAM CORE THAT COMPRISES MORE THAN 50
16 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE PROGRAM. THE MAJOR CORE OR
17 PROGRAM CORE IS THE SET OF COURSES REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS PURSUING A
18 DEGREE PROGRAM AND SHOULD REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF REQUIRED UNITS SO THAT
19 THE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES CAN BE ACHIEVED BY ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS,
20 REGARDLESS OF SUBPROGRAM. Modifications in existing courses and programs also are given
21 formal consideration, and all programs are reviewed in an ongoing process which has a five-year cycle.

22 The curriculum has both residence and external components and includes undergraduate and graduate
23 segments. Courses, degree, and certificate programs and modifications thereof are proposed by the
24 faculty in the respective disciplines or interdisciplinary areas. Following departmental/divisional/school
25 approval, these proposals are reviewed by the APPROPRIATE cCommittee of the corresponding college.

26 At the university level, new major programs, options, minor/credential programs and certificates and
27 resolution of unresolved challenges to curricular modifications are considered by THE Curriculum
28 Subcommittee OR GRADUATE STUDIES SUBCOMMITTEE. The subcommittee submits approved
29 proposals to the Educational Policy Committee, where the curricular actions stand approved unless
30 questioned and agendized for further consideration.