

Curriculum Committee Interpretation of Senate Policies 01-02 and 02-03

April 13, 2009

A review of the current majors has revealed that options/ emphases in three of the current majors count all nine units of upper-division interdisciplinary general education in the major. In a joint meeting of the Curriculum and General Education Committee with representatives from Academic Advising, the Mission Centers, and Admissions and Records, Senate Policies 01-02 and 02-03 were interpreted as having the expressed intent that three of the nine units were to be free electives which cannot be specified as required courses, including required supporting courses, in the major. These three units of free electives must also not be cross-listed with the student's major.

This interpretation shall become effective with the 2010-2011 academic year, and the catalog for that year and subsequent years will reflect this wording regarding the nine units of upper-division interdisciplinary general education. The 2010-11 catalog shall also reflect updates in the affected majors to be consistent with this interpretation. Only students who have catalog rights to the 2010-2011 catalog and beyond are subject to this interpretation. Student currently pursuing majors in the 2009-2010 catalog or before are exempt from this interpretation. This interpretation applies to all majors except those with stringent external requirements which may receive a waiver from the Curriculum Committee on a case-by-case basis (see below).

2010 – 2011 Catalog Copy, General Education section, Upper-Division Interdisciplinary General Education Courses sub-section:

“The nine units of resident upper division General Education required of all students must be selected from the listing of upper division interdisciplinary courses. Courses may be cross-listed in two or more disciplines. At least three of the units are free electives and must be taken outside the student's major and not cross-listed with the student's major. Students who pursue a double major must meet this requirement in at least one of their two majors.

Copy for the Curriculum Committee Guide and Announcement to the Faculty:

“A maximum of six of the nine units of resident upper division General Education required of all students may be counted as required courses in a major; a minimum of three units shall be free electives which are not cross-listed with the student's major. The three units of free electives cannot be specified as Required Supporting courses or required courses in options or emphases in the major. Programs may encourage, but not require, students to take the three units of free electives from a set of courses as appropriate to the major.

Professional programs that combine an undergraduate major with a certification in a professional program, i.e. Nursing or Accelerated Liberal Studies, and which have external mandates regarding unit limits, i.e. Chancellor's Office and accrediting agency, may be exempted from this GE interpretation on a case by case basis. In order to obtain this waiver from the Curriculum Committee, programs must supply information from the accrediting agency and the Chancellor's Office that outlines the content specifications and unit cap mandate.”