

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 15, 2011

TO: Deans, Directors, Department Heads, and Advisors

FROM: Thomas Fleming, Chair, University-wide General Education Committee
George Gehrels, Chair, Undergraduate Council
Celeste Pardee, Curriculum Associate, Curricular Affairs

RE: **General Education - Multiple Courses in a Tier One Study Area**

Effective in Fall 2011, students may apply more than one course in a General Education Tier One Study Area category to their degree program. In the past only one course per Study Area category (e.g., INDV 101) applied toward a student's degree because the second INDV 101 course with a different subtitle was coded as a repeat (no credit) in UA systems. Now that all Tier One courses have department prefixes and new numbers, two courses will not be identified as repeats by the UAccess system. Tier One renumbering in Summer 2011 provided an opportunity for students to earn credit for more than one course in a Study Area category. The following policy revision was initiated by the University-wide General Education Committee, approved by the Undergraduate Council on 4/12/11, and passed by the Faculty Senate on 9/12/11. It applies to all currently enrolled students and has been added to the 2011-12 Catalog.

Revision of General Education Tier One Policy – second paragraph
(http://catalog.arizona.edu/2011-12/gened_tiers.html#tier2):

*Tier One courses introduce students to fundamental issues and concepts pertinent to three study areas. Courses in each study area have a department prefix but the same number, as shown below. To complete each study area, students must take two courses in different subareas or **categories**, designated by a letter (A, B, C) following the 3-digit course number.*

<u>Tier One Study Areas:</u>	<u>Required Breadth:</u>
<i>Individuals & Societies (xxxx150)</i>	<i>2 - 150 courses with different letters (A, B, C)</i>
<i>Traditions & Cultures (xxxx160)</i>	<i>2 - 160 courses with different letters (A, B, C, D)</i>
<i>Natural Sciences (xxxx170)</i>	<i>2 - 170 courses with different letters (A, B, C)</i>
	<i>Total: 6 courses</i>

The first course taken in a study area category (e.g., ARC 160D1) will count toward the Tier One requirement; a second course taken in the same study area category - identical course number and letter (e.g., JUS 160D1) - will count as general elective credit. Tier One courses cannot apply toward the major or minor.

Rationale for the Revision:

- With a variety of courses offered in each study area, it is appropriate for a second or third course in a study area category to count for elective credit.
- Few courses within each study area category are equivalents. The equivalents will be coded as identical/mutually exclusive to prevent students from repeating the same content.
- Tier One courses that are interdisciplinary in scope offer undecided students an opportunity to explore majors in many disciplines. This is a legitimate use of Tier One courses.

- Currently, there are ample seats in Tier One courses, so students may take more than one per study area category for elective credit without creating a shortage of seats.
- Tier One courses for first year students have been created to comply with General Education criteria, to be reviewed periodically by the University-wide General Education Committee, and to be managed for incoming freshmen by the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Management of the Tier One Policy:

- UAccess Student is programmed to apply the first course completed with a passing grade in a Tier One Study Area category toward the specific Study Area requirement. The second course passed in a Study Area category will apply toward total degree units as general elective credit.
- Tier One courses cannot apply toward a major or minor.

Questions about the General Education policy should be addressed to Celeste Pardee, Curriculum Associate, at 621-5375, cpardee@u.arizona.edu.