

USP Committee Recommendations

The USP Committee recommends the following changes to the University Studies Program:

1. Eliminate the Cross-Disciplinary Requirement and allow students to satisfy the residual general education credit hours by taking free electives. Implement Fall 2001.
2. Change the Cross-Cultural Requirement to emphasize a broader scope of cultural diversity than is reflected by the current emphasis on nonwestern cultures. Allow students to satisfy the requirement by completing existing or new courses that address the broader sense of human/cultural diversity. All potential courses would be evaluated and approved by the USP Committee using criteria to be developed Spring 2001. Implement Fall 2001.
3. Consider changing the writing requirement to include the following:
 - i. Develop a new 4-credit course to be taken by most first-year students instead of Eng 101 and 102.
 - ii. Revise Eng 101 and 102 to reflect a similar purpose and content to that of the new 4-credit course but to be delivered over two semesters rather than a single semester.
 - iii. Develop enrollment criteria (e.g., threshold ACT or SAT scores) that specify who may select each option.
 - iv. In addition to the first-year writing experience, require that each student complete three Writing Intensive courses before graduation. These courses may be in the major or outside of the major. All Writing Intensive courses would be approved by the USP Committee.
 - v. Develop criteria that define Writing Intensive courses.
 - vi. Evaluate the resource implications of these recommended changes and develop an effective strategy to ensure that the necessary expertise and support are available before implementation.
 - vii. Implement Fall 2002.
4. Conduct a feasibility study to consider recommendations of an ad hoc Committee convened to evaluate the current Math Basic Skills requirement and the Inference requirement. The main recommendations of the ad hoc committee include the following:

- i. All students must complete both an Inductive and a Deductive reasoning requirement before graduation.
 - ii. Develop a new basic skills math course alternative to Math 109.
 - iii. Develop criteria to identify courses that will satisfy the Inductive and Deductive reasoning requirements. It is expected that the list of course options will include existing courses as well new courses offered by departments across the University.
 - iv. Evaluate the resources implications of these recommendations and ensure that adequate support is available on a recurring basis to implement these changes.

5. Allow students to use appropriate independent research courses and experiential education courses to satisfy general education free electives.
 - i. Develop criteria that define “appropriate” research and experiential education courses.
 - ii. All research and experiential course options are to be approved by the USP Committee.