




MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Mary Coombs 
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: September 4, 2003

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2003-02(B) – Revision of the General Education Requirement regarding Areas of Knowledge

The Faculty Senate, at its August 27, 2003 meeting, voted unanimously to approve the attached proposal regarding revisions to the Areas of Knowledge section of the General Education Requirements, submitted by David Wilson, Chair of the General Education Requirements Working Group that you appointed to review/revise the General Education Requirements.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.


MC/kl

cc: ✓Luis Glaser, Executive Vice President and Provost
✓David Wilson, Chair of Committee revising the General Education Requirements

Faculty Senate
1252 Memorial Drive, 325 Ashe Admin. Bldg.
Coral Gables, Florida 33124
Phone: (305) 284-3721 • Fax: (305) 284-5515
<http://www.miami.edu/FacultySenate>
email: facsen@miami.edu

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2003-02(B) – Revision of the General Education Requirement regarding Areas of Knowledge

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 9-9-03
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Provost

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: _____
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

General Education Requirements

Areas of Knowledge

I. Areas of Knowledge

These requirements are designed to help students understand and appreciate the intellectual achievements in major areas of inquiry and creative endeavor. In satisfying these requirements, students will explore the natural world, examine human culture and behavior, and study creative expression in the arts, literature and philosophy. While in general any course in the departments and programs listed below, or any course with the 3-letter designators if such is listed, counts towards the General Education Requirement in that area, course selection will be restricted by prerequisites for some courses. Courses in Areas of Knowledge will require students to demonstrate and extend their learning acquired in competency areas, such as mathematics and writing. **No more than six credit hours may be taken in any one department to satisfy the areas of knowledge requirement.**

Natural World (6 credits). The Natural World requirement may be satisfied by courses in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geological Sciences, Marine Science, Physics, Anthropology (APN), Geography (GEN), and Physical Science in the College of Arts and Sciences, by Music (MNX) and by First Year Seminars in the Natural Sciences.

People and Society (6 credits). The People and Society requirement may be satisfied by courses in the Schools of Communication (except those in Motion Pictures and Photography), Music (MXX) and Education (EPX), in the Departments of Economics and Political Science of the School of Business Administration, and in African American Studies, American Studies, Anthropology (APY), Geography (GEG), History, International Studies, Judaic Studies (JUS), Psychology, Religious Studies (RXX), Sociology and Women's Studies (WOS) in the College of Arts and Sciences, and by First Year Seminars in the Social Sciences.

Arts and Humanities (12 Credits). Arts courses include courses in the Schools of Architecture (ARA) and Music (MYY), in the Motion Picture and Photography programs of the School of Communication, and in Art/Art History and Theatre Arts in the College of

Arts and Sciences, and by First Year Seminars in the Arts. Humanities courses include those in the School of Architecture (ARL), Music (MHX) and in English (200-level or above), Foreign Languages and Literatures (300-level or above), Judaic Studies (JUH), Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Women Studies (WOH) in the College of Arts and Sciences, and by First Year Seminars in Literature/Philosophy/Religion. Students who do not have a separate foreign language requirement may use foreign language courses number at the 100 or 200 level to satisfy part of the arts and humanities requirement, if the language differs from the student's native language and if, when beginning with a 101-level course, they also take the 102-level course in the same language.

Additional Comments

1. Given the above changes, each department and school is encouraged to review its prerequisites and requirements for entrance into courses to assure that only appropriately qualified students gain admission to them. For instance, some courses might need to be listed as "for majors/minors only".
2. The full impact of the above changes in general education will occur only after the individual schools and colleges alter their own restrictions on courses satisfying general education requirements.
3. Beyond the departments which have primary designations of Areas of Knowledge identified in the above lists, and beyond courses already approved as satisfying Areas of Knowledge requirements, departments or schools that desire to have a course satisfy an Areas of Knowledge requirement should bring forward proposals to their school/college curriculum review committee for review and approval. The school shall then forward its recommendation to the Faculty Senate University Curriculum Committee for its review and approval. Unique, three-letter designators will be used to make the courses that satisfy particular Areas of Knowledge easily identifiable (For example, in the Department of Anthropology, APY will be used for courses satisfying its primary area, People

and Society, while APN will be used for courses satisfying the Natural World area). The new, 3-letter designators will need to be modified and/or checked for uniqueness against a master list of existing designations. Once the above new bulletin language is approved, departments with new 3-letter designators, after seeking necessary approvals, must adjust the Bulletin and Schedule of Classes listings of their courses accordingly. A course may satisfy, at most, only one Area of Knowledge.

In addition to the above requirements, each school is strongly encouraged to include in its required curriculum courses that emphasize each of the following themes: ethics, technology, and diversity. Ethical and moral issues should be explored as appropriate for each student's discipline, or students should be expected to take a more general ethics course. Students should have an exposure to the latest technology related to their discipline, develop an ability to adapt to new technologies, understand something of the history of technology, and develop an understanding of the impact of technology on society and the environment. Students also should be expected to explore topics related to diversity. Diversity is here defined broadly to include multicultural, multiethnic, gender, and disability issues, as well as courses that deal with cultural or ethnic subjects that go beyond the dominant, Western cultural tradition. If students are to be equipped for life in the 21st century, their education must include a foundation in ethics, technology, and diversity.