

Fulton School Curriculum Reform: A Brief Summary

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The Faculty Senate endorsed the University Curriculum Committee's approval of two facets of the comprehensive curricular reform in the Fulton School:

1. The establishment of three "pilot" programs (Art, Philosophy, and Political Science) that will replace 3-credit courses with enhanced, 4-credit courses.
2. The adjustment of the Fulton School portion of General Education, currently Groups I and II, in order to accommodate 4-credit courses within our school and to reduce the credits required in these categories from 30 to 26-28.

The pilot programs will begin in fall 2007; the change in General Education will become effective in fall 2008.

Some Background:

- The University Curriculum Committee and the Provost have determined that the proposed course enhancements are consistent with COMAR Regulations.
- The Provost has stated that curriculum reform will proceed if, and only if, the costs are manageable.
- The changes in General Education are modest and are designed simply to accommodate curriculum reform in the Fulton School. General Education Groups I and II will be reduced from the current ten courses and 30 credits to seven courses and 26-28 credits.
- The Fulton School is providing syllabi for all "enhanced" courses to the University Curriculum Committee; comprehensive reform has not received special consideration.
- 80% of Fulton School faculty voted in November in favor of the reform initiative (100 to 24; one abstention).

Course Enhancements and COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations)

Fulton courses will be converted to 4-credit courses by implementing one or more of the following enhancement options:

1. Increased course content and/or collateral readings
2. Undergraduate Research and Information Literacy
3. Technology
4. Higher Level Critical Thinking Exercises (analysis, synthesis and evaluation)
5. Service Learning/Civic Engagement
6. International Education/Cultural Enrichment
7. Additional hour(s) in class, lab or studio

Following COMAR regulations, course enhancements will require one extra hour per week of class time, *or* two extra hours per week of studio time, *or* three extra hours per week of supervised, documented learning outside the classroom.

Changes to Fulton School portion of General Education, Groups I and II

Current General Education, Groups I and II, 30 credits/10 courses

GROUP I - 15 HOURS/5 COURSES

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|----|--|---------|
| A. | English 101 | 3 _____ |
| | English 102 | 3 _____ |
| | LITERATURE (in English or Mod. Languages) | 3 _____ |
| B. | Art, Communication and Theatre Arts, Dance,
Modern Languages, Music, Philosophy
(6 hours from at least two departments) | |
| | _____ | 3 _____ |
| | _____ | 3 _____ |

GROUP II - 15 HOURS/5 COURSES

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|----|---|---------|
| A. | History 101 | 3 _____ |
| | History 102 | 3 _____ |
| B. | Nine credits hours from three of the following departments: Anthropology, Economics, ENVR
150, History, Human Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology/Conflict Analysis and
Dispute Resolution | |
| | _____ | 3 _____ |
| | _____ | 3 _____ |
| | _____ | 3 _____ |

Proposed Changes to General Education, Groups I and II, 26-28 credits/7 courses

Group I—English Composition and Literature (2 courses)

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|----|--|-----------|
| A. | ENGL 101..... | 4 credits |
| B. | One literature course (in either English or Modern Languages)..... | 4 credits |

Group II—History (2 courses)

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|----|---|-----------|
| A. | HIST 101, 102 or 103..... | 4 credits |
| B. | HIST 101, 102, 103 or a History course above 103..... | 4 credits |

Group III—Humanities and Social Sciences (3 courses)

Complete one course from each of the following three groups. The three groups must come from three different departments.

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|----|--|-------------|
| A. | Select one course from Art, Communication/Theatre Arts, Dance,
Modern Languages, Music, or Philosophy..... | 4 credits |
| B. | Select one course from Anthropology, Economics, Human Geography
(NOT Physical Geography), Political Science, Psychology,
Sociology/Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution..... | 3-4 credits |
| C. | Select one course from either group A or group B..... | 3-4 credits |