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David Pistole & B. Gail Wilson dpistole@iup.edu bgwilson@iup.edu					
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Explanation of Revisions to Liberal Studies Information Packet

Criteria for Liberal Studies curriculum categories and courses are being added and/or revised to address the revisions made to the Liberal Studies curriculum, the revised Liberal Studies Curriculum Framework and the approved Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes approved by University Senate and the IUP Council of Trustees.

These criteria will be implemented along with the revised Liberal Studies curriculum framework in Fall 2011 for incoming first year students. Students enrolled at IUP prior to Fall 2011 will be transitioned out of the current program and curriculum exceptions will be made as needed to accommodate those students.

The criteria outlined in this document were developed in large part by subcommittees of university personnel who wrote guidelines for each category and were then later reviewed by departments and interested individuals. At the start of the fall 2009 semester, these criteria were posted on the Liberal Studies web site and open to campus-wide feedback. The Liberal Studies Committee has considered all the comments received and has completed a final edit of these criteria.

Included in this curriculum proposal are the criteria for the Written Communication Competency-Across-the-Curriculum.

Written Communication Competency-Across-the-Curriculum

The Written Communication CAC can be accomplished in any part of a student's curriculum including major courses, electives and other Liberal Studies courses with the exception of First Year Seminar and the English Composition I and II courses taken to fulfill the Liberal Studies Learning Skills requirements. The National Council of Teachers of English recommends class sizes of no more than 20 for composition courses (NCTE, 1999). It is recommended that Written Communication CAC courses enroll no more than 25 students per section.

Written Communication CAC Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes

Syllabi for courses designed to fulfill the Written Communication Competency-Across-the-Curriculum requirement must provide course content that enables students to achieve the Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes identified below. Course proposals may identify additional objectives from the list of Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes as appropriate to the course content.

As Empowered Learners students will demonstrate:

- effective oral and written communication abilities
- information literacy skills including the ability to access, evaluate, interpret and use information from a variety of sources
- critical thinking skills including analysis, application and evaluation
- reflective thinking and the ability to synthesize information and ideas

As Responsible Learners students will demonstrate:

intellectual honesty

Written Communication CAC Required Course Content

Proposals for courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Written Communication Competency-Across-the-Curriculum requirement must include:

- writing assignments designed to enhance students' ability to write
- guidance to students in conceptualizing, organizing, and presenting written material giving attention to both the process and product of writing
- writing assignments that have clearly defined stages of preparation and regular progress reviews (including feedback from the instructor and opportunities for revision)
- writing assignments that comprise a major part of the final course grade: in most cases this should be 50% or more (for example, 15-20 typed pages or 5,000 words)
- at least one assignment that requires students to produce a finished, edited document

Written Communication CAC Common Learning Objectives

All courses meeting this competency will establish the following common learning objectives:

At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to:

- effectively communicate in writing
- · respond critically and analytically to materials and sources relevant to the course
- · discuss/critique his or her own writing