

Portland State University Faculty Senate Motion

Revision to BA-BS Requirements – Section D : Align BA/BS Distribution with Oregon Community Colleges for Transfer Students

Background, rationale, and preliminary discussions

In response to the report prepared by the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Summer Research on Academic Program Examination / Reorganization, in October 2020, Faculty Senate charged a joint task force of the Academic Requirements Committee (ARC) and University Curriculum Committee (UCC) with evaluating the BA/BS requirements for curricular inefficiencies and recommend ways to streamline them. The task force submitted its report to Faculty Senate in early February, 2021. Material for this motion is drawn from the results of the task force's inquiries.

The task force recommends that PSU align the BA/BS distribution with Oregon Community Colleges for transfer students.

For the most part, the Community College general education distribution lists aligns with PSU categorizations. However, several mismatches regularly create difficulties for transfer students. For example, at PSU, all WS courses apply as Social Science, but at PCC, one specific WS course applies as Humanities (i.e. Arts & Letters). In another example, at PSU, all CHLA courses apply as Social Science, but at PCC, certain CHLA courses apply as Humanities.

PSU is currently required to accept the Community College course category alignment when the student earns the recently developed Core Transfer Map (CTM) qualification, a 30-credit common general education package. The change proposed in this motion extends the acceptance/category alignment to all the community college courses, even when the student has not completed the entire CTM package.

We suggest the following motion related to the BA and BS requirements to align with general expectations of HECC and legislative statewide transfer initiatives, to support more streamlined and successful transfer for students, and to conform to common outcomes adopted statewide for general education distribution within the Humanities (Arts & Letters), Social Science, and Science disciplinary distribution areas:

Motion presented by the Academic Requirements Committee

PSU will accept and apply courses from Oregon community colleges within the Humanities and Social Science areas in the same way they were categorized at the community college on their published AAOT General Education List. PSU will accept the Science courses in the same way, with the exception of Computer Science courses which are sometimes counted as Science at the community colleges.