

## **Compromise Curriculum Revision**

### **I. Overview of the compromise curriculum revision proposal.**

The following is an overview of the compromise curriculum revision that is being worked on by the University Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UWUCC) and the Liberal Studies Committee (LSC). The request for this revision came from Dr. Werner. The revision changes the Liberal Studies course requirements to 43-51. The reduction of Liberal Studies hours from 48 (current) to 43 (proposed) comes from the elimination of the synthesis (LBST 499) course (3 credits) and the reduction of English I to three credits and Natural Sciences to 7-8 credits (one credit reduction from each). Rationales for the various changes are briefly outlined below. The outline of the revision follows the rationales.

### **II. Reason for action**

- A. Dr. Werner asked to meet with the co-chairs of the UWUCC, Senate chair, Provost, Liberal Studies director and one member of the LSC to find a way to move forward with the curriculum revision (October 15, 2010).
- B. It was agreed by all at the meeting that the best way to move forward was to have the LSC create a basic compromise proposal and then work with the UWUCC to expand the basic proposal.
- C. The UWUCC and the LSC are seeking a workable compromise at the request of the president, since the Liberal Studies criteria were tabled last spring in Senate due to budget concerns and because the original revision did not have broad support.

### **III. New information to consider since the last revision**

- A. Board of Governors changed the minimum number of Liberal Studies (general education) hours needed to graduate from 48 to 40.
- B. Budget crises and issues of very limited resources.
- C. Middle States Issues of Assessment – for example Middle States felt that our Liberal Studies Electives category lacked any goals and were simply a “hodge-podge” of courses.
- D. Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes – approved 2 May, 2006 by University Senate. All Liberal Studies courses will have to be updated to meet these outcomes. Ultimately, it will also allow for better assessment of the Liberal Studies Program by aligning the approved Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes with the criteria to teach the courses.

### **IV. Why 43-51 credits for Liberal Studies**

- A. Many accredited programs will benefit by a reduction of total hours.
- B. Many programs would not have to do any program revisions.
- C. It is very difficult to find a compromise curriculum of 40 credits with our current course offerings.

## **V. Specifics of the revised curriculum**

### **A. Health and Wellness vs. Dimensions of Wellness**

Dimensions of Wellness provides a broader interpretation of the category. It also recognizes that wellness is more than just physical wellness. This type of course allows for more flexibility as to who will offer these courses, provides for active learning experiences and addresses more than one area of wellness.

1. Updates our curriculum to reflect a more modern definition of wellness.
2. Provides more wellness options to help students deal with their first year of college (financial, emotional, physical etc.).

### **B. Non-western vs. Global and Multicultural Awareness**

Change title of the Non-Western Cultures category to Global and Multicultural Awareness.

1. Provides for a broader range of courses to meet this requirement.
2. Addresses specific issues raised by Middle States about assessment.
  - a. Data from the last three years of assessment of the Liberal Studies Program indicate that the weakest area of the Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes is the Respect for Identities, Histories, and Cultures of Others. This will help to strengthen this area.
  - b. Gives this Liberal Studies category a purpose.
3. Gives other options to fulfill this category then are available in the current Liberal Studies curriculum.
4. The current non-western courses are already in categories so there is no immediate need for new courses.

### **C. Liberal Studies Electives and Across the Curriculum courses (categories)**

Integrate Across-the Curriculum categories (except for Writing) into the Liberal Studies Electives category.

1. Liberal Studies Electives must address at least one of the following areas: global citizenship, information literacy, oral communication, quantitative reasoning, scientific literacy or technological literacy.
2. Addresses specific issues raised by Middle States, e.g. this category would now have a specific purpose or goal.

**D. Writing intensive courses**

Why leave the category as it is in our current curriculum?

1. Middle States Assessment requires assessment of the Liberal Studies Program. We have been using senior level writing course assignments to do this the past two years. The assessment of those areas (application and/or synthesis, critical thinking, and communication) indicates that we are doing a good job.
2. The writing intensive courses with at least one in the major appear to be supplying our students with the tools necessary to be at comparable levels to other target universities in this category.

**E. Eliminate Synthesis, First Year Seminar, Oral and Technical Communication Requirement**

1. Why eliminate synthesis?
  - a. Budget issues –saves faculty.
  - b. Drift in courses – not all doing what was originally proposed.
2. Why eliminate First Year Seminar and Oral and Technical Communication?
  - a. Budget issues – no new courses added to curriculum.

## VI. Liberal Studies Framework

### Liberal Studies Requirements

All students must fulfill the requirements of the university's Liberal Studies program. This involves a minimum of 43 credits among Learning Skills, Knowledge Areas and Liberal Studies electives. The number of credits may rise slightly depending on student choices. Different colleges and sometimes departments within colleges may have specific variations as to how these Liberal Studies requirements are to be met.

<b>LEARNING SKILLS</b>		12-13cr
English Composition I and II	6cr	
Mathematics	3-4cr	
Dimensions of Wellness	3cr	
<b>KNOWLEDGE AREAS</b>		28-29cr
Humanities	9cr	
One course in history, one in literature and one in philosophy or religious studies.		
Fine Arts: One Course from List	3cr	
Natural Science: Choose 1 Option	7-8cr	
Option I (8 credits): Natural Science Laboratory Courses		
Any two courses with laboratories (4cr each) from the natural science laboratory course list.		
Option II (7 credits): One Laboratory Course plus One Non-laboratory Course		
One course with a laboratory (4cr) from the natural science laboratory course list and one course (3cr) from the natural science non-laboratory course list.		
Social Science: Three Courses from List	9cr	
<b>LIBERAL STUDIES ELECTIVES</b>		3-9cr
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43-51cr</b>

## NOTES

1. Global and Multicultural Awareness: One course from List

3cr

Students must fulfill this requirement by completing one course from the list; most of these courses will at the same time fulfill other requirements set by Liberal Studies or in some cases by a college or department.

2. Writing Across the Curriculum: Minimum of Two "W" Courses

All students must include among the total courses required for graduation a minimum of two designated writing-intensive courses. One of these courses must be in the student's primary major; the other(s) may be in Liberal Studies, college or major requirements, or free electives. Such courses, which involve extensive use of writing as part of the learning experience, are identified with a "W" as part of the section number in each semester's schedule of classes listing on URSA.

LSC Use Only No:	LSC Action-Date:	UWUCC USE Only No.	UWUCC Action-Date:	Senate Action Date:
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Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Contact Person(s) Gail Sechrist David Pistole	Email Address Gail.Sechrist@iup.edu dpistole@iup.edu
Proposing Department/Unit Liberal Studies/UWUCC	Phone 357-5715, 357-2612

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Prefix Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Number and/or Title Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change
<hr/>	
<i>Current Course prefix, number and full title</i>	<i>Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing</i>
<hr/>	
2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate	
<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African)
<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.	
<hr/>	
3. Program Proposals	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change
<input type="checkbox"/> New Minor Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Revision
<input type="checkbox"/> New Track	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
	Liberal Studies Framework Revision and Related Criteria
<hr/>	
<i>Current program name</i>	<i>Proposed program name, if changing</i>
<hr/>	
4. Approvals	
	Date
Department Curriculum Committee	
Chair(s)	
Department Chair(s)	
College Curriculum Committee	
Chair	
College Dean	
Director of Liberal Studies *	
Director of Honors College *	
Provost *	
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)	
UWUCC Co-Chairs	

## **Introduction to Liberal Studies**

The contents of this Liberal Studies Curriculum Handbook are intended to serve as a guide for faculty and departments in their efforts to develop courses for the Liberal Studies curriculum. It is necessary for this program to meet the goals of the University and to provide a comprehensive curriculum that will provide all IUP students the opportunity to meet the Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes. This is the objective of the Liberal Studies program as a whole but not the responsibility of individual courses. No one course or program is expected to meet all of the Student Learning Outcomes.

When developing curriculum proposals, individual faculty and departments should review the Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes and define them as appropriate to their courses and departmental goals. Specific terms included in the outcomes should be defined as appropriate to the course content or disciplinary area. This is particularly important in cases where multiple sections of a course are offered and being taught by different faculty members. These instructors will need to agree on how these student learning outcomes are defined within their courses.

Proposals will need to include a justification for the exclusion of an Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcome (in whole or in part) that has been designated as "required" in a particular course or curricular category.

## **I. Guidelines for Liberal Studies Course Proposals**

### **A. Course Proposal Content Guidelines**

Wherever appropriate to the course content, courses in the Liberal Studies curriculum should:

- provide course content that addresses issues of diversity, including the contributions of ethnic and racial minorities and of women
- address critical-thinking and scholarly discourse
- require the reading and use by students of at least one non-textbook work of fiction or non-fiction or a collection of related articles

Additionally, all courses in the Liberal Studies Curriculum must:

- be distinguished from technical courses designed primarily for majors
- be distinguished from professional or pre-professional courses
- be distinguished from courses that are designed primarily for the needs of beginning majors and which presume the taking of additional course work in that discipline
- be distinguished from remedial courses
- address (for multiple sections of the same course) how a basic equivalency will be achieved to enable all sections to meet common student learning outcomes and course content

### **B. Faculty and Department Commitment to Liberal Studies**

Individual faculty and academic departments offering courses in IUP's Liberal Studies program must commit to the following:

- sustaining the course content set out in the original course proposal in such a way that the course will continue to meet the course outcomes outlined in the approved course syllabus and the primary Expected Student Learning Outcomes set forth in the course criteria
- participating in the Liberal Studies Committee's periodic review of Liberal Studies courses
- addressing the teaching of Liberal Studies courses in departmental five-year reviews



## **II. Liberal Studies Proposal Submission Guidelines**

All curriculum proposals for Liberal Studies follow the procedures outlined in the University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UWUCC) curriculum handbook. New and revised Liberal Studies courses and revisions to the Liberal Studies portion of any program also come to the Liberal Studies Committee for review, are forwarded for action to the UWUCC and University Senate.

### **New and Revised Course Proposals submit:**

- One copy of the course syllabus (in UWUCC Syllabus of Record Format), with signed cover sheet attached to the Liberal Studies Office
- One copy of the Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes Chart identifying the primary outcomes for the course as outlined in the course or category criteria
- Assignment instructions for one of the major course assignments and a grading rubric or grading criteria for that assignment

Individuals proposing courses that fulfill only part of a credit requirement for a given course or category must address how students will be able to meet the remainder of the requirement. For example if a one-credit course is designed to fulfill one-third of a three-credit Liberal Studies requirement proposers will need to address the availability of other one- or two-credit courses to fulfill the remainder of the requirement

### **Program Proposals**

- Proposals for new programs or revisions to the Liberal Studies portion of an existing program will submit one copy of the proposal, following the UWUCC guidelines, with signed cover sheet attached, to the Liberal Studies Office.
- Syllabi for new or revised courses that are part of the program revision must also be included.

## Liberal Studies Framework

### Liberal Studies Requirements

All students must fulfill the requirements of the university's Liberal Studies program. This involves a minimum of 43 credits among Learning Skills, Knowledge Areas and Liberal Studies electives. The number of credits may rise slightly depending on student choices. Different colleges and sometimes departments within colleges may have specific variations as to how these Liberal Studies requirements are to be met.

#### LEARNING SKILLS

**12-13cr**

English Composition I and II

6cr

Mathematics

3-4cr

Dimensions of Wellness

3cr

#### KNOWLEDGE AREAS

**28-29cr**

Humanities

9cr

One course in history, one in literature and one in philosophy or religious studies.

Fine Arts: One Course from List

3cr

Natural Science: Choose 1 Option

7-8cr

Option I (8 credits): Natural Science Laboratory Courses

Any two courses with laboratories (4cr each) from the natural science laboratory course list.

Option II (7 credits): One Laboratory Course plus One Non-laboratory Course

One course with a laboratory (4cr) from the natural science laboratory course list and one course (3cr) from the natural science non-laboratory course list.

Social Science: Three Courses from List

9cr

#### LIBERAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

**3-9cr**

#### **TOTAL**

**43-51cr**

#### **Global and Multicultural Awareness: One course from List**

**3cr**

Students must fulfill this requirement by completing one course from the list; most of these courses will at the same time fulfill other requirements set by Liberal Studies or in some cases by a college or department.

#### **Writing Across the Curriculum:**

##### **Minimum of Two "W" Courses**

All students must include among the total courses required for graduation a minimum of two designated writing-intensive courses. One of these courses must be in the student's primary major; the other(s) may be in Liberal studies, college or major requirements, or free electives. Such courses, which involve extensive use of writing as part of the learning experience, are identified with a "W" as part of the section number in each semester's schedule of classes listing on URSA.

## **Dimensions of Wellness**

Students are required to complete three (3) credits in the Dimensions of Wellness category. The primary focus of this course requirement is upon one of the following dimensions of wellness: emotional, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social or spiritual. Because wellness is a multi-dimensional concept, each course must clearly demonstrate how the dimension of primary focus relates to at least one of the other dimensions. All Dimensions of Wellness courses must require students to participate in active learning or experiential activities designed to enhance personal well-being.

### **Dimensions of Wellness Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes**

Syllabi for courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Dimensions of Wellness 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 *Informed Learners* students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the interrelationships within and across disciplines

As *Empowered Learners* students will demonstrate:

- information literacy skills including the ability to access, evaluate, interpret and use information from a variety of sources
- the ability to transform information into knowledge and knowledge into judgment and action
- critical thinking skills including analysis, application and evaluation
- reflective thinking and the ability to synthesize information and ideas

As *Responsible Learners* students will demonstrate:

- an understanding of the ethical and behavioral consequences of decisions and actions on themselves, on society and on the physical world

### **Dimensions of Wellness Required Course Content**

Proposals for courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Dimensions of Wellness requirement must include:

- clearly identified active learning or experiential activities that require students to apply course content
- self-reflective activities that provide insight into personal wellness
- an assessment of personal strengths and challenges within the dimension of primary focus
- development of an improvement plan to address the challenges identified in the assessment exercises
- a culminating self-evaluation of the student's progress toward improvement
- use of the Internet as a means to gather accurate information relevant to the topic of primary focus; it is expected that the Internet will be where students and their families will seek wellness information

Individuals proposing courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Dimension of Wellness requirement are encouraged to include:

- activities that promote development of oral and/or written communication
- activities that encourage service learning opportunities
- approximately 30 percent of the class time devoted to active learning or experiential activities

**Dimensions of Wellness Common Learning Objectives**

All courses meeting the Liberal Studies Dimensions of Wellness requirement will establish common course objectives stating:

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

- describe the factors within the course's primary focus that influence wellness
- understand how to apply the skills learned in this course throughout his or her life
- use information literacy skills to seek and evaluate wellness-related information
- identify the benefits of a wellness-oriented lifestyle and consequences of a wellness-neglected lifestyle

## **Literature**

Students are required to complete three (3) credits from an approved menu of literature course options. The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE, 1999) and the Association of Departments of English (ADE, 2009) recommend enrollment limits of 35 students to allow an appropriate level of group-work and class interaction.

### **Literature Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes**

Syllabi for courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Literature 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 *Informed Learners* students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the aesthetic facets of human experience
- the human imagination, expression and traditions of many cultures

As *Empowered Learners* students will demonstrate:

- critical thinking skills including analysis, application and evaluation
- reflective thinking and the ability to synthesize information and ideas
- ease with textual, visual and/or electronically-mediated literacies

As *Responsible Learners* students will demonstrate:

- an understanding of themselves and a respect for the identities, histories, and cultures of others

### **Literature Required Course Content**

Proposals for courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Literature requirement must include:

- works of imaginative literature, both poetry and fiction (whether novel, short story, or dramatic text); works that introduce students to a mixture of literary genres and are not limited to a single genre or form
- works by ethnic and racial minorities and women
- techniques that foster students' ability to sustain engagement with a variety of literary works
- techniques that foster students' ability to analyze and interpret literature independently and collaboratively

Individuals or departments proposing courses designed to fulfill any Liberal Studies Literature course are encouraged to include content from both English-language literatures and as relevant, literatures in translation and content that will:

- focus on literatures from around the world
- focus on a particular theme
- include works of creative non-fiction
- include a mix of historical periods and historical cultures

## **Literature Common Learning Objectives**

All courses meeting the Liberal Studies literature requirement will establish the following common learning objectives:

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

Understand aesthetic and imaginative facets of human experience by being able to:

- discuss the purposes and functions of literature within society
- recognize the power of finely controlled language beyond its informational dimension, such as its auditory, imagistic, affective, symbolic, and hermeneutic possibilities
- appreciate the ways in which one text can form the basis for multiple, sometimes competing, interpretations

Demonstrate critical and reflective thinking skills by being able to:

- articulate and effectively communicate how a text has become meaningful
- formulate questions appropriate to the understanding of literary texts
- develop interpretations of literary texts that are grounded in careful reading strategies and in any of many literary or theoretical approaches
- understand literature as a reflection of or challenge to the culture and time in which it was produced

Association of Departments of English. (Winter-Spring 2009). "*ADE Guidelines for Class Size and Workload for College and University Teachers of English*," Retrieved November 9, 2009 from [www.ade.org/bulletin/frames\\_browse.htm](http://www.ade.org/bulletin/frames_browse.htm)

National Council of Teachers of English. (1999). "*NCTE Position on Class Size and Teacher Workload, Kindergarten to College*." Retrieved November 9, 2009 from: <http://www.ncte.org/about/policy/guidelines/107620.htm>

## **Global and Multicultural Awareness**

Global and Multicultural Awareness courses are designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about the world and its diverse peoples and to promote a better understanding of other cultures. Students should gain an understanding of global events and how these events affect their lives as well as creating possibilities to address them.

A Global and Multicultural Awareness course may present one or more cultures by emphasizing a single dimension, e.g. art, music, dance, politics, religion. Such a course is appropriate if the dimension is represented in its cultural context. Although a Global and Multicultural Awareness course may deal with a single culture, comparative courses addressing relationships among cultures are encouraged.

Students must fulfill this requirement by completing one course from the list of approved courses; most of these courses will at the same time fulfill other requirements set by Liberal Studies or in some cases by a college or department.

Students are also able to fulfill this requirement by completing any 200-level foreign language course approved to meet the Global and Multicultural Awareness requirement.

### **Global and Multicultural Awareness Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes**

Syllabi for courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Global and Multicultural Awareness 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 *Informed Learners* students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the interrelationships within and across cultures and global communities

As *Empowered Learners* students will demonstrate:

- critical thinking skills including analysis, application and evaluation
- reflective thinking and the ability to synthesize information and ideas

As *Responsible Learners* students will demonstrate

- an understanding of themselves and a respect for the identities, histories, and cultures of others

### **Global and Multicultural Awareness Required Course Content**

Proposals for courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Global and Multicultural Awareness requirement must include:

- development of students' understanding of cultures that differ from the prevailing cultures of the United States, Canada, Western Europe, New Zealand, and Australia. However, courses on minority cultures from within these countries, e.g., aboriginal Australians, Native Americans in Canada or the United States, or North Africans in Western Europe, may be seen as global.
- presentation of cultures on their own terms with an appreciation of their dimensions, going beyond mere description of a culture; those dimensions may include religion, economics, politics, art, language, literature, ethics, as well as other dimensions of the cultural milieu.

## Liberal Studies Electives

### **Liberal Studies Electives Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes**

Syllabi for courses designed to fulfill the Liberal Studies Electives requirement must provide course content that enables students to achieve one or more of the following: global citizenship, information literacy, oral communication, quantitative reasoning, scientific literacy, or technological literacy.

#### Global Citizenship

Liberal Studies Elective courses designed to address global citizenship take students beyond the concept of cultural appreciation and are designed to help students see themselves as citizens of the world and to develop among them an awareness of the problems of social justice and equity. Syllabi for courses 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 Informed Learners* students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the interrelationships within and across cultures and global communities

*As Empowered Learners* students will demonstrate:

- 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
- concern for social justice
- civic engagement
- an understanding of the ethical and behavioral consequences of decisions and actions on themselves, on society and on the physical world
- an understanding of themselves and a respect for the identities, histories, and cultures of others

Proposals for courses designed to address global citizenship must include:

- an emphasis on understanding global communities, including the relationships within and between cultures
- an examination of global issues (such as diversity in gender, religion, politics, ethnicity, economics or the arts; environmental sustainability, social responsibility in global business or inequities in education or global literacy)
- content that increases students' awareness of the problems of social justice and equity
- at least 50% of the course grade based on assignments related to Global Citizenship

Proposals for courses designed to address global citizenship are encouraged to include:

- an examination of the ways differing cultures establish and rely on systems of values, norms and ideals



- content that enables students to gain knowledge of the past and present and interrelations among communities from historical, philosophical, scientific or social perspectives
- content that examines problems of environmental sustainability (or lack thereof) and how those problems relate to social issues
- an exploration of the ethical and behavioral consequences of decisions and actions on individuals, society and the physical world

### Information Literacy

Liberal Studies elective courses designed to address information literacy 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
- ease with textual, visual and electronically-mediated literacies
- 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

As *Responsible Learners* students will demonstrate:

- intellectual honesty

Proposals for courses designed to address information literacy must include:

- course pedagogy and assignments that address a minimum of three of the five standards from the IUP Information Literacy Competency Standards (see Appendix I)
- assignments that require students to use a variety of print and non-print resources (including, but not limited to, books, newspaper articles, journal articles, on-line periodical databases, government documents, web pages, etc.)
- course content that addresses the legal and ethical use of information

### Oral Communication

Liberal Studies elective courses designed to address oral communication 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
- reflective thinking and the ability to synthesize information and ideas

Proposals for courses designed to address oral communication must include:

- oral communication activities that are integrated into the course content
- guidance for students on researching and organizing the content of oral communication activities

### Quantitative Reasoning

Liberal Studies elective courses designed to address quantitative reasoning 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 *Informed Learners* students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the ways of modeling the natural, social and technical worlds

As *Empowered Learners* students will demonstrate:

- problem solving skills using a variety of methods and tools
- critical thinking skills including analysis, application and evaluation

Proposals for courses designed to address quantitative reasoning must:

- engage students in the interpretation, analysis and use of numerical and graphical data
- apply quantitative techniques to address problems within a specific discipline
- develop logical and deductive reasoning

### Scientific Literacy

Liberal Studies elective courses designed to address scientific literacy 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 *Informed Learners* students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the interrelationships within and across disciplines

As *Empowered Learners* students will demonstrate:

- problem solving skills using a variety of methods and tools
- 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

As *Responsible Learners*

- an understanding of the ethical and behavioral consequences of decisions and actions on themselves, on society and on the physical world

Proposals for courses designed to address scientific literacy must:

- investigate relevance, application, and impact of science to student's life or field of study
- apply problem solving and critical thinking skills
- transform information to explore hypotheses and draw conclusions

### Technological Literacy

Liberal Studies elective courses designed to address technical literacy 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:

- ease with textual, visual and electronically-mediated literacies
- problem solving skills using a variety of methods and tools
- 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

As *Responsible Learners* students will demonstrate:

- intellectual honesty
- an understanding of the ethical and behavioral consequences of decisions and actions on themselves, on society and on the physical world

Proposals for courses designed to address technical literacy must include content and instruction:

- related to the use of productivity software\* or technological devices that provides opportunities for students to achieve the required student learning outcomes
- that provides opportunities for students to understand how information technology impacts ethical and behavioral consequences of decisions and actions

\* Productivity software could include word processing, database management, spreadsheets, presentation software, web-based technologies and other applications packages.

## **Writing Across-the-Curriculum**

The Writing Across-the-Curriculum requirement can be accomplished in any part of a student's curriculum including major courses, electives and other Liberal Studies courses with the exception of 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 Writing Across-the-Curriculum courses enroll no more than 25 students per section.

### **Writing Across-the-Curriculum 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

### **Writing Across-the-Curriculum 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)
- at least one assignment that requires students to produce a finished, edited document
- written assignments throughout the semester that amount to a minimum of 15-20 typed pages or approximately 5,000 words
- at least 50% of the course grade based on writing assignments

### **Writing Across-the-Curriculum 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