

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes

240 SH

September 19, 2024

Attending: Cornelia Lang (chair), Rodica Curtu, Noelle Franzone, Megan Gogerty, Anita Jung, Liz Lundberg (staff), Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Sanvesh Srivastava, DeAndre Steger, Amy Strathman, Rachel Young

Absent: Asha Bhandary, Julianna Pacheco

1. First the committee welcomed Kung-Sik Chan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, to discuss proposed changes to the Statistics BS program. He was joined by Sanvesh Srivastava, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, and a member of UEPCC. Under the proposed plan, starting in Fall 2025, the Statistics BS would no longer be organized into three subprograms (or tracks). Instead, all students would be part of the same program, and in place of the track requirements, they would each choose five advanced electives out of a list of approved options.

Professor Chan explained that the current subprograms (Statistics in Business, Industry, Government, and Research; Statistical Computing and Data Science; and Mathematical Statistics) have existed since 2014 and have begun to outlive their usefulness. We now have a separate major in Data Science, making that track somewhat redundant. The department would also like to allow for more flexibility in students' coursework and a more holistic approach to the study of statistics, to better match the jobs students will seek. Finally, asking students to specialize too early in their field, before they'd had enough time to explore areas of interest, may not serve them best. Students will still be able to replicate any of the three subprograms if they wish, by selecting specific advanced electives, and the department will provide sample plans of study for students interested in particular areas.

There was some discussion with the committee about the job market in statistics and how students indicate their specialties or tracks when applying for jobs. The committee also raised questions about the department's plans for coordinating offerings of the advanced electives, as well as how this change could affect enrollment in advanced courses. Professor Chan explained what data the department has been using and their plans to monitor these issues and respond as needed.

The committee was supportive of the proposed changes. In particular, members appreciated the way this plan simplifies requirements for students and creates flexibility for the department, including opportunities for new courses and updated learning outcomes. The committee agreed that providing sample plans to guide students in their choice of electives will be important, alongside academic advising.

2. Next, the committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from September 12, 2024. Once approved, all minutes can be found [here](#).

3. The committee then reviewed and approved three courses recommended by the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC) for General Education (GE) CLAS Core status. Because this was the first meeting of the academic year to include a review of courses for GE status, Associate Dean Lang began by giving an [overview of GECC's work](#) and the [process for submitting a course for GE status](#).
 - a. *LING 1075: World Englishes* is a new course designed for the World Language and Cultural Exploration (WLCE) area. The committee appreciated this course's approach to studying linguistics and culture and agreed with GECC that it should be approved for WLCE status.
 - b. *GRMN 1685: Castles, Cathedrals, and Composers: German Cultural History* has recently been revised to meet the learning outcomes of the World Language and Cultural Exploration area. The course was received favorably, and UEPCC agreed with GECC that it should be approved in the WLCE area.
 - c. *CINE 2626: Introduction to Animation* was submitted for the Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts (LVPA) area. This proposal was also received favorably, and the committee agreed with GECC that the course should receive LVPA status.
4. Finally, Associate Dean Lang began a discussion about developing criteria for which courses should be granted out-of-class examination time at midterms. She explained that this topic has been discussed by UEPCC in the past, but criteria have not yet been set.

Currently anyone can request an out-of-class midterm time for their course, and the Registrar's Office approves these requests based on availability of classroom and testing space. Too many out-of-class midterms can be burdensome for students, however, by conflicting with their regular course schedules (as well as their other activities and obligations). Some courses genuinely need to give midterm exams in this way—for example, courses in which it is important for all students across multiple sections to take the exam at the same time. Some other reasons for administering exams in this way might have other solutions, however, like wanting to use a bigger room for testing.

The committee discussed the various pros and cons of giving out-of-class midterms, additional reasons it might be wanted or needed by certain instructors, and potential criteria for limiting the number of these exams. Associate Dean Lang will prepare some preliminary criteria and bring them to a future UEPCC meeting to continue the conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Jung
Professor, Art, Art History, and Design
Secretary, UEPCC