

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

Minutes

240 SH

November 21, 2024

Attending: Cornelia Lang (chair), Asha Bhandary, Rodica Curtu, Noelle Franzone, Anita Jung, Liz Lundberg (staff), Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Sara Morelli (guest), Julianna Pacheco, DeAndre Steger, Amy Strathman

Absent: Megan Gogerty, Sanvesh Srivastava, Rachel Young

1. First the committee welcomed guests from the Spanish department to discuss proposed revisions to the Spanish BA. Rachel Klevar (Assistant Professor of Instruction and head of Spanish curriculum) and Amber Brian (DEO, Department of Spanish and Portuguese) were joined by Meredith Gall (Senior Academic Advisor working with students in the Spanish BA) and Jennifer Bertrand (Director, Academic Policies and Student Services, CLAS UP, and expert on FLIP credit).

Currently the Spanish BA requires courses in five core areas plus seven major electives. All courses must be at the 2000-level or higher, and at least three courses for the major must be numbered 4000 or higher and taken at the University of Iowa. In response to conversations with students over the years, the department now wishes to reduce the number of advanced courses from three to two, reduce the number of core areas from five to three, and introduce three optional concentration areas within the major. Under the proposal, SPAN:1502 Intermediate Spanish II (or one of its equivalent courses) would be required for the major as well; the committee discussed some options for structuring this requirement for students who begin college with a placement higher than this level but without college credit for the course. (The department has also been in discussions with the Registrar's Office about different ways to program this requirement.)

The committee was supportive of the changes to major. Much of the discussion focused on issues unique to Spanish as both a major and a language commonly taken in high school and for the General Education Program. The committee discussed FLIP (Furthering Language Incentive Program) credit, the Seal of Biliteracy, AP credit, and language placements as they pertain to Spanish majors. The committee also discussed the optional concentration areas' names and structures. Some details will need to be finalized between the Department, the College, and the Registrar's Office, but the committee approved of the proposed revisions to the major.

2. The committee then reviewed and approved the following courses recommended by the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC) for General Education (GE) CLAS Core status.
 - a. HONR:2993 Generative Creative Writing (Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts)
 - b. EDTL:4410 Language, Power, and Multilingual Education (World Language and Cultural Exploration)

3. Next, Associate Dean Lang presented recommendations from CLAS UP that the College reevaluate the way we award credit for Advanced Placement (AP) scores and increase the number of tests eligible to earn General Education credit. For about the last ten years, CLAS has only awarded GE credit for an AP exam score if that AP course is considered equivalent to a course we offer that has been approved in that GE area. Many AP courses not considered equivalent to courses we offer grant elective credit (with an exam score of 4 or 5). Based on a recent assessment of AP credit policies across UI colleges and peer institutions, CLAS UP recommends that the College go back to its prior way of evaluating AP credit, where it is possible for an AP exam score to fulfill a GE area even if the AP course is not considered an exact equivalent to one of our courses. Associate Dean Lang presented a list of about ten AP subjects to be considered for GE areas, with a few requiring additional information before final decisions are made. The committee was in favor of this policy change. The College will still only award credit for scores of 4 or higher, and students will still have a cap of 30 semester hours of credit by exam that can be applied toward their requirements to graduate. As the College finalizes the timeline for implementation of this change, we will work with Admissions to make sure prospective students know about it.

Respectfully submitted,

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