

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

Minutes

240 SH

February 27, 2025

Attending: Cornelia Lang (chair), Asha Bhandary, Rodica Curtu, Megan Gogerty, Liz Lundberg (staff), Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Julianna Pacheco, Sanvesh Srivastava, DeAndre Steger, Amy Strathman, Rachel Young

Absent: no one

1. First the committee reviewed and approved the minutes from February 13 and February 20, 2025. All approved minutes can be found [here](#).
2. The committee then discussed the current CLAS policy not to allow transfer credit to fulfill the Understanding Cultural Perspectives (UCP) General Education CLAS Core area and considered whether it would be appropriate to change that policy.

The decision not to allow transfer credit to fulfill the area was made when the requirement was established. In 2016, Undergraduate Student Government (USG) came to CLAS with a request for a new GE area addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. The General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC) and UEPCCC agreed to develop the requirement. The committees wanted to ensure that the courses approved in the area, then called Diversity and Inclusion, were all small, discussion-based, highly immersive, and appropriate for students to take in their first year. Like the Rhetoric requirement, it was seen as one of the fundamental, signature pieces of a University of Iowa education. At the time, Iowa was one of the only schools with a general education requirement that emphasized understanding other people's perspectives across differences in life experience and identity. For these reasons, it made sense to require students to fulfill the area here.

In the years since the requirement was established, several things have changed. One is that GECC and UEPCCC have approved some larger lecture courses and some online courses in the area: especially during and after the pandemic, it made less sense than it once did to expect that every UCP course be small and in-person. The other significant change that occurred over this time is that many other colleges and universities began offering comparable courses that seem to meet the learning outcomes of the UCP area.

UEPCCC discussed that changes in GE programs and policies are never retroactive, so if this rule were changed, the change would go into effect in fall 2025 at the earliest, and students who took courses elsewhere earlier than that semester would not get to apply them to this requirement. The committee discussed the need for clear, student-facing communication about this change and the possibility of presenting the change to Undergraduate Student Government in the fall. Other points that came up in discussion include:

- the need to communicate this change to Admissions and review the UCP learning outcomes with evaluators;

- that a score of 4 or 5 on the African American Studies AP exam could also fulfill this area, as previously discussed on November 21, 2024;
- that students would theoretically be able to start at Iowa with all of their GE requirements completed;
- but that we would not change the articulation agreements we have with community colleges (so students bringing in a completed associate's degree would still need to fulfill UCP and World Languages); and
- that the College of Engineering has allowed transfer credit to fulfill this area all along.

UEPCC approved this policy change. CLAS UP will begin working on implementing the change with an effective session of fall 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Asha Bhandary
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Secretary, UEPCC