

A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

For several years the School of Liberal Arts has implemented a requirement that a student have, as one of the area III requirements (5 courses outside your major—often in schools besides Liberal Arts) an “integrator.” The idea for this effort originated in an attempt to provide interdisciplinary courses with the School of Science. Three years ago the School of Science dropped the Integrator requirement. Since then, though we have specific courses for the Integrator and some courses within departments specifically designated as “integrators”, it remains difficult to field enough courses to provide a sufficient range of times and topics to meet student demand. Thus, many students require “exceptions” (essentially waivers) to fulfill this requirement. Not only does this situation cause confusion among students and an extra burden on both advisors and The Office of Student Affairs, but it has caused a wide degree of latitude in what counts for an integrator course, seriously diluting the original intent of this requirement.

Thus, The Student Affairs Committee proposes:

1. The Integrator requirement be abolished and the Area III, five three credit 300/400 level courses outside the major, remain as it.
2. Those courses now designated as Integrators—especially those under the label INTG be encouraged as Area III courses by all departments.
3. Those courses that are in areas suited to Comparative World Cultures requirements such as the integrator courses in African American Diaspora Studies be counted in that Category.

The results of this change will not harm any departments’ enrollments but will allow greater efficiency in advising and avoid the questionable variations in application of the label “integrator” to a wide variety of courses that do not always fit the intent of the original requirement. Further, it will allow students to be able to select more clearly which courses they need for graduation without requiring waivers from advisors or Student Affairs.