



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

March 21, 2012

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2011-2012

Mr. David E. Shipley, Chair

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Public Health – Dr. Marsha C. Black

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Veterinary Medicine - Dr. K. Paige Carmichael

Graduate School - Dr. Tracie E. Costantino

Undergraduate Student Representative – Mr. Marshall Mosher

Graduate Student Representative – Mr. Zachary Watne

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Environmental Literacy Subcommittee of the University Curriculum Committee to revise the Environmental Literacy Requirement will be an agenda item for the March 28, 2012, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting. Included is a copy of the proposed Environmental Literacy Requirement and a copy of the current requirement.

Sincerely,

David E. Shipley, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Jere W. Morehead
Dr. Laura D. Jolly

Proposed

Environmental Literacy Requirement

The University of Georgia recognizes its responsibility to develop in its students an understanding of the interactions of humans with their environment. To achieve this goal, every student must acquire an integrated basic understanding of

- the scientific principles that govern natural systems,
- the consequences of human activity on local, regional and global natural systems,
- the impact of changes within natural systems on human life, health and welfare, and
- the cultural, economic, and political forces that affect environmental policies.

Students can satisfy this requirement through one of two pathways:

1.) The requirement can be satisfied by taking a course on a list maintained by the University Curriculum Committee. To be on this list, a course must satisfy all four of the above criteria in an integrated fashion. A subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee will periodically review courses on the list and will review departmental proposals to add new or existing courses to the list.

2.) Specific academic programs may petition the University Curriculum Committee that all students completing that program will obtain an integrated basic understanding of the above four criteria. If a program is approved, any student completing that program will be considered to have satisfied the requirement. A subcommittee of the University Curriculum Committee will periodically review these programs and will review new proposals for programs to be added to the list. This subcommittee will forward these proposals with their recommendation to the full University Curriculum Committee.

The new requirement will be effective for students entering UGA in Fall 2013.

Initial Implementation: The University Curriculum Committee will appoint an Environmental Literacy Subcommittee with at least five members that will review the list of courses which presently (2012) satisfy the Environmental Literacy Requirement to determine which of those courses satisfy all four of the above criteria in an integrated fashion. Departments may propose new or existing courses to be put on the list. If a course is denied, the department will be given an opportunity to provide additional information and/or revise the course.

This subcommittee will also review proposals for academic programs that satisfy the four criteria in an integrated fashion. The subcommittee will make a recommendation to the full University Curriculum Committee for a vote on such programs.

After the original list is developed, the University Curriculum Committee will decide whether to continue the Environmental Literacy Subcommittee or to transfer the maintenance and review of the list of courses and programs that satisfy the requirement to a standing subcommittee.

CURRENT

Semester Environmental Literacy Requirement

Approved by University Council of the University of Georgia on March 17, 1998
The *Environmental Literacy Requirement* subcommittee was charged with review of the Environmental Literacy Requirement due to concern over the number of hours required and the overall effectiveness of the requirement. The Full Committee approved the following proposal from the subcommittee which has been forwarded to the Executive Committee of Council for consideration:

1. The Full University Curriculum Committee recommends an external review of the Environmental Literacy Requirement.
2. The Committee also recommends that the University, until the advice of the external review can be considered, limit the criteria for Environmental Literacy to the following:
 1. *Basic scientific principles which govern natural systems.*
 2. *The consequences of human activity on local, regional, and global natural systems.*

This will begin fall of 1998 and remain in place until the results of the external review can be implemented.

3. Each college/school will be invited to submit a list of semester courses that satisfy the above criteria. The University Curriculum Committee will approve the courses satisfying the requirement. Only one course will be necessary to satisfy the requirement.
4. No current student will be disadvantaged by the change in the Environmental Literacy Requirement. Student currently enrolled will be allowed to satisfy the requirement under the existing or new requirement. Any student who has satisfied the Environmental Literacy Requirement for any school or college of the University shall receive credit for fulfillment of the Environmental Literacy Requirement.