

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

August 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Douglas Estry, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Dr. Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services

RE: **Request to Update Requirements for the Integrative Studies Program**

For Transmittal to the University Committee on Undergraduate Studies (UCUS)

The request referenced above is being sent to the University Committee on Undergraduate Studies (UCUS) in accordance with the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*, 4.4.

UCUS Response Requested:

Please ask the UCUS to consider the request referenced above and provide consultative commentary.

Request:

This is a request to recommend approval to delete the following statement from the Integrative Studies policy as listed in the Academic Programs catalog and to state in the catalog that the Integrative Studies Program credit requirement is 24 credits.

“The disposition of 2 of the 26 credits is currently under discussion. Until a decision is reached, students may use these as elective credits.”

Rationale:

It is confusing to students and advisers to list two additional credits as requirements when there is no way to enforce the two-credit requirement. No determination was ever made regarding how the credits should be completed. Since 2000, there has been no discussion of how to define the role of these two credits. To match MSU longstanding practice of more than a decade (2000-2012), the Integrative Studies policy should be updated.

History:

Since 1992, the implementation of a University Integrative Studies Program has provided students with a sense of interrelatedness of knowledge, especially the melding of liberal learning with the professional, technical, and specialized knowledge of the major. It is an integral part of the University's education for all undergraduate students.

Initially, the 26 credit integrative studies program was comprised of four areas: arts and humanities (8 credits); general science (7 credits); social, behavioral, and economic sciences (8 credits); and transcollegiate courses (3 credits).



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Michigan State University
Hannah Administration Building
426 Auditorium Road, Room 430
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Phone: 517-355-6550
Fax: 517-355-9601
provost.msu.edu

In Fall 2000, on recommendation of the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP) and approved by Academic Council, the transcollegiate requirement of the integrative studies program was eliminated and the 3 credit requirement was reassigned with 1 credit being added to the general science requirement and the remaining 2 credits unassigned and authorized for students to use for elective purposes.

Proposed Academic Programs catalog text:

The completion of a minimum of 24 credits in Integrative Studies is required for each student.

Marked text: The completion of a minimum of 26 credits in Integrative Studies is required for each student. ~~The disposition of 2 of the 26 credits is currently under discussion. Until a decision is reached, students may use these as elective credits.~~

Current Academic Programs catalog text within the entire Integrative Studies section:

Undergraduate Education
Graduation Requirements
Graduation Requirements for a Bachelor's Degree
Requirements for the Integrative Studies Program

The completion of a minimum of 26 credits in Integrative Studies is required for each student. The disposition of 2 of the 26 credits is currently under discussion. Until a decision is reached, students may use these as elective credits.

Each student must earn at least the specified number of Integrative Studies credits in each of the following three areas: Arts and Humanities (8 credits); Biological and Physical Sciences (8 credits); and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (8 credits).

1. In the Arts and Humanities area, students must complete one IAH course numbered below 211 and one other IAH course numbered 211 or higher. Completion of the Tier I writing requirement is the prerequisite for any IAH course below 211. Any IAH course below 211 serves as the prerequisite for any IAH course numbered 211 or higher.
2. In the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences area, students must complete a sequence of two courses: one 200-level course and one 300-level course. The 200-level course is the prerequisite for the 300-level course.
3. In the Biological and Physical Sciences area, each student must complete 8 credits. The 8 credits consist of 3 credits in Biological Sciences, 3 credits in Physical Sciences, and a 2-credit laboratory experience, taken concurrently with one of the courses. Completion of a defined level of mathematics is a prerequisite for courses in both the biological and physical sciences.

3.1. The Biological and Physical Sciences requirement may be met by alternative courses approved for specific academic major and degree programs for students enrolled in those programs.

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3.2. A student who changes from a major having approved alternative courses in Biological and Physical Sciences to a major which requires the regular Integrative Studies sequence will be given credit for the alternative courses already completed.

Many of the courses in the Arts and Humanities area and in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences area, emphasize national diversity (designated "N" at the end of the course title), or international and multicultural diversity (designated "I" at the end of the course title). Some courses emphasize both national diversity, and international and multicultural diversity (designated "D" at the end of the course title). Students must include at least one "N" course and one "I" course in their Integrative Studies programs. A "D" course may meet either an "N" or an "I" requirement, but not both.