Non-Consent Agenda Item:
Approval to Exclude 400-Level Courses from General Education – Tier Two

Effective Date:
April 2015 for existing and new Tier Two courses

Proposed amendment to Tier Two Course Policies &
Guidelines, http://gened.arizona.edu/content/tier-two-guidelines (amendment in bold red font)

Tier Two courses should be advanced beyond Tier One courses in conceptual level, if not always in specific content. Such courses may provide exposure to the primary aspects of a discipline, but they are not to be constructed as introductions to a major.

The prerequisites for Tier Two courses are Tier One courses (or their transfer equivalents) in the same study areas; Humanities Tier Two courses require the completion of the Tier One Traditions and Cultures requirement, and Natural Science and Individuals and Societies courses at the Tier Two level require the completion of the corresponding Tier One study area. Only the Tier Two Arts study area is not specifically sequenced after any Tier One courses. Tier Two courses in all four study areas may list as prerequisites certain basic requirements in mathematics and/or composition that can be satisfied through Foundations coursework.

Tier Two Natural Science courses may include a laboratory component.

Tier Two courses in Natural Sciences, Individuals and Societies, Humanities, and Arts must offer an Honors component.

Tier Two courses are limited to those at the 100- to 300-levels. The only 400-level courses that may satisfy a General Education requirement are non-Tier Two courses approved for the Diversity Emphasis Requirement.

Rationale for the Change:
• The UWGEC has been discouraging the submission of 400-level course proposals for Tier Two study areas for the past few years, but a definitive policy is needed.
• Tier Two courses are fundamentally different from courses created for a major or minor; Tier Two courses must satisfy General Education and Study Area learning outcomes, whereas major/minor courses must satisfy discipline-specific outcomes for the baccalaureate degree.
• 400-level courses are specialized, in-depth, advanced courses for a major or minor; those courses should have more academic rigor than 300-level courses, and they should have one or more prerequisites.
• 400-level courses for a major should target students with prior knowledge and skills in that discipline, whereas courses for Tier Two should be open and available to all students who have completed the corresponding Tier One study area.
• Only two 400-level courses are now on the list of approved Tier Two courses (AFAS 444 and AED 408). Upon approval of this proposal, those will be withdrawn from Tier Two. The offering departments may resubmit them as 300-level courses for Tier Two.

Approvals:
Undergraduate Council: 2/10/15
Graduate Council: N/A
Academic Deans: 3/24/15?
Administrative Review: 2/16/15
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