Non-Consent Agenda Item:
Approval to simplify the General Education–Tier One Study Area Requirements

Effective Term:
Summer/Fall 2015 for all new and continuing undergraduates, regardless of Catalog year

Proposal (see accompanying diagram):
• The three Tier One Study Areas—Individuals/Societies, Traditions/Cultures, and Natural Sciences—should be fulfilled with two courses, regardless of the category (designated by A, B, C, D) within each Study Area.
• In other words, students should satisfy the Tier One requirements by taking any two 150 courses, any two 160 courses, and any two 170 courses.
• The current course numbers (150, 160, 170) and category letters (A, B, C, D) should remain for the Course Catalog and UAccess system identification purposes.

Proposed Revision to the Catalog Policy, http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/gened_tiers.html#tier1 (changes in red font)

Tier One Requirements:
Tier One courses introduce students to fundamental issues and concepts pertinent to three study areas. Courses in each study area have a department prefix but the same number, as shown below. To complete each study area, students must take two courses in different subareas or categories, designated by a letter (A, B, C) following the 3-digit course number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier One Study Areas</th>
<th>Required Breadth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals &amp; Societies (xxx150)</td>
<td>2 - 150 courses with different letters (A, B, C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditions &amp; Cultures (xxx160)</td>
<td>2 - 160 courses with different letters (A, B, C, D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences (xxx170)</td>
<td>2 - 170 courses with different letters (A, B, C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>6 courses</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The first course taken in a study area category (e.g., ARC 160D1) will count toward the Tier One requirement; a second course taken in the same study area category—identical course number and letter (e.g., JUS 160D1)—will count as general elective credit. If a student takes an additional course in one of the study areas (e.g., a third xxx150 course), it will count as general elective credit. Note: Tier One courses cannot apply toward the major or minor.

Rationale:
• Students frequently choose two courses within the same study area category, mistakenly thinking they have completed the study area requirement, when in fact they have not.
• Removal of the categories within each study area will simplify course articulation for transfer students who don’t finish an AGEC from an Arizona community college.
• Eliminating the significance of the course letters will reduce faculty and student confusion about the meaning of the categories within each study area.
• Tier One requirements will be easier to explain to high school students at recruitment sessions and to new students at orientations.
• This simplification will better align the UA’s General Education with those of ASU and NAU.

Approvals:
University-wide General Education Committee: 2/18/15
Undergraduate Council: 3/10/15
Graduate Council: N/A
Academic Deans: 3/24/15
Administrative Review: 4/6/15
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