

University Core Curriculum Committee Annual Report: 2012-2013

July 10, 2013

I. Charges to the University Core Curriculum Committee

- A. The University Core Curriculum Committee (UCCC) received five charges at its initial meeting on August 24, 2012:
1. Overseeing the composition of the KU Core curriculum;
 2. Certifying (and re-certifying) courses and experiential learning activities nominated for inclusion as part of the KU Core;
 3. Monitoring the achievement of learning outcomes through these courses and activities;
 4. Reviewing and recommending proposals for certificate programs (e.g., Global Awareness Program, Research Experience Program, Service Learning Program); and
 5. Envisioning innovative ways to meet learning outcomes.

II. UCCC Actions Regarding Courses

- A. UCCC approved 1,309 course-learning outcome matches for the KU Core curriculum:

| Goal & Learning Outcome | Approved |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1 | 74 |
| Goal 1, Learning Outcome 2 | 24 |
| Goal 2, Learning Outcome 1 | 13 |
| Goal 2, Learning Outcome 2 | 3 |
| Goal 3 | 406 |
| Goal 4, Learning Outcome 1 | 103 |
| Goal 4, Learning Outcome 2 | 330 |
| Goal 5, Learning Outcome 1 | 33 |
| Goal 5, Learning Outcome 2 | 2 |
| Goal 6 | 321 |

- B. UCCC returned approximately 120 course/learning outcome applications to nominating units for, in most cases, potential revision and resubmission.
- C. In reviewing the total number of courses approved to date for each goal, UCCC noted that several courses approved for Goal 2 (including Engl 101, Engl 102, and Engl 203) and Goal 5 (including Phil 160) have multiple sections.

- D. In response to a question from the university community, UCCC noted that academic units may specify a learning outcome as a course prerequisite.
- E. UCCC approved, used, and periodically revised a form and procedure for the online nomination of courses for inclusion in the KU Core.
- F. UCCC approved a First Year Seminars (FYS) course option for academic units. Courses approved for the FYS program fulfill Goal 1, learning outcome 1.
- G. In response to questions from the university community, UCCC adopted the following interpretations of Goal 3:
 - 1. With sufficient evidence, a course may be certified as fulfilling more than one of the three broad areas in Goal 3.
 - 2. Math courses may be considered Natural Sciences courses for Goal 3.
 - 3. Arts courses need not contain traditional elements of humanities courses to be considered Arts and Humanities courses for Goal 3.
- H. UCCC considered whether Goal 4, learning outcome 2, which focuses on “communities outside the United States,” should be limited to primarily non-Western, non-Eurocentric courses and experiences. UCCC declined to recommend restricting Goal 4, learning outcome 2, to non-Western, non-Eurocentric courses and experiences.
- I. UCCC accepted the definition of capstone courses approved by the Kansas Board of Regents and currently used by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) to designate capstone courses. CLAS capstone courses thus received batch UCCC approval toward fulfillment of Goal 6. UCCC noted that a minimum of 3 credit hours was necessary to meet Goal 6 (capstone courses of less than 3 credit hours may be grouped to meet the 3-credit-hour minimum) and that students in all such courses should, as required by Goal 6, “generate new ideas” or “creative products.”
- J. UCCC adopted the following interpretation of Goal 6: In the KU Core Guidelines, the phrase “be completed at the junior or senior level” refers to the course number rather than the status of the student (e.g., sophomore or junior) if the unit in question is a course.
- K. For both courses and experiences, UCCC adopted the understanding that the word *supermajority* in relation to unit content denoted a minimum of 60 percent of that content.

III. UCCC Actions Regarding Experiences

- A. UCCC approved KU's Research Experience Program to meet Goal 6.
- B. UCCC approved the Service Learning Certificate to meet Goal 5, learning outcome 2.
- C. UCCC approved KU Office of International Programs study abroad programs of 3-5 credit hours or a minimum of 6 weeks' duration to meet Goal 4, learning outcome 2.
- D. UCCC adopted the following interpretation of Goal 6. If Goal 6 is satisfied through a unit that involves an experience, including research experiences, that unit should conform to the standards established for approved Study Abroad units: Such units must be 3-5 credit hours or a minimum of 6 weeks' duration.
- E. UCCC began discussions with KU's Experiential Learning Collaborative to determine how that group might evaluate nominated experiences that are not tied to a specific course or school/College program and make recommendations to UCCC.

IV. UCCC Policies, Procedures, and Administrative Actions

- A. UCCC reviewed the Policy Statement that established the KU Core and forwarded recommendations to the Provost's Office.
- B. UCCC detailed and approved a process for recommending revision of the composition of the KU Core. Modeled on University Senate rules and regulations, the process involves seeking feedback from students, staff, and faculty and making final recommendations to the Provost's Office.
 - 1. Following this process, after gathering and evaluating campus feedback UCCC recommended revising the options for meeting Goal 4. Replacing the published options, the UCCC recommended that students acquire the two units required to meet this goal by either (1) a unit meeting learning outcome 1 and a unit meeting learning outcome 2 or (2) a unit meeting learning outcome 1 and a significant study abroad experience. The intent of the proposed revision is to ensure that KU undergraduates study U.S. diversity as well as diversity within and among worldwide cultures. The provost approved this revision.
- C. UCCC worked with the Office of Admissions and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish KU Core compatibility policies for transfer courses that don't automatically meet KU Core requirements through prior

arrangements.

- D. Noting that all units approved for the KU Core must document student learning that has enabled those students to achieve the specified learning outcome(s), UCCC began considering options for reviewing and recertifying approved units.
- E. UCCC began considering procedures for a petition process for requests for exceptions to KU Core Guidelines.
- F. UCCC created the KU Core Implementation Work Group, chaired by Special Advisor to the Provost Chris Haufler, to consider course capacities, the clarity of communication about the KU Core, the sharing of best student-advising practices, and other functions as assigned by UCCC. The work group consists of Haufler, the 2012-2013 UCCC chair, the 2013-2014 UCCC chair, support staff from the Provost's office, and invited guests.
 - 1. In its final 2012-2013 meeting on May 9, 2013, UCCC charged the work group with the following summer 2013 projects:
 - a. Collecting recommendations for revision of the KU Core Guidelines from UCCC members and other sources. UCCC asked the work group to prepare a list of those recommendations for consideration by the 2013-2014 UCCC.
 - b. Preparing a student-petitions process for consideration by UCCC.
 - c. Continuing to communicate with the Experiential Learning Collaborative regarding how that group might evaluate nominated experiences that are not tied to a specific course and make recommendations to UCCC.
 - d. Based on 2012-2013 experiences, considering additional revisions to the course/experience online nomination form.
 - e. Collecting and organizing UCCC policies, procedures, and understandings.
- G. At its May 9, 2013, meeting, UCCC elected Kelli Thomas, School of Education, as its 2013-2014 chair.

Membership of UCCC

Paul Atchley, College (Social Sciences); Bill Carswell, Architecture, Design, & Planning; Tyler Childress, student; John Coler, student; David Darwin, Engineering; Amy Devitt, College (Humanities); Erin Ellis, Libraries; Nelda Godfrey, KU Medical Center; Christopher Johnson, Music; Alice Lieberman, Social Welfare; Bruce Lieberman, College (Natural Sciences and Mathematics); Charles Marsh, Journalism & Mass Communications; Susan Scholz, Business; Kelli Thomas, Education; Sherrie Tucker, College (International and Interdisciplinary Studies); Gina Westergard,

College (School of the Arts); Barbara Woods, Pharmacy; and Maggie Zehren, student. Supporting UCCC from the Provost's Office are Chris Haufler, Special Advisor to the Provost; Paul Klute, Research Analyst; Terri Morris, Administrative Assistant; Jeni Klute, Administrative Assistant; and Amy Smith, Director of the Policy Office.

UCCC wishes to express particular gratitude to Special Advisor to the Provost Chris Haufler.

For more information on the KU Core curriculum, please visit www.kucore.ku.edu.

Submitted by:

Charles Marsh
2012-2013 Chair
University Core Curriculum Committee