

EPC Motions to the A&S Faculty

The Educational Policy Committee submits the following motions for consideration at the Arts & Sciences faculty meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. These motions all deal with general education requirements, and in brief their effect would be as follows:

1. To establish a new Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency requirement for all students (similar to GER 6)
2. To abolish the current Active Learning Experience requirement
3. To make it clear that COLL 150s may be offered in languages other than English

I. Motion to create a Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency. This would become one of the general education requirements for all students beginning with the entering class of Fall 2016.

Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency. Satisfied by two credits in the same creative or performing art.

The purpose of this proficiency is to understand the artistic process. Accordingly, by actively involving students in exercises that require artistic choices, these courses aim for an experience-based understanding of how the artist communicates. A course that satisfies this proficiency requires a student to begin to understand an art at the foundation level through artistic activities involving each of the following: developing their artistic skills; and applying the principles of the art through projects and/or exercises.

As with GER 6, we would accept exemptions based on high school experience (two years of art, creative writing, etc.).

II. Motion to abolish the Active Learning Experience requirement, effective beginning with the entering class of Fall 2016.

Rationale for motions I and II: "Active learning" is poorly defined and quickly expands to encompass almost all courses. We believe the creative and performing arts merit special attention, and that all students will benefit from the expressive aspects of these courses.

III. Motion to add an addendum to the curriculum language for COLL 150 authorizing the teaching of COLL 150s in languages other than English

Here is the current language with the proposed addendum underlined:

COLL 150

COLL 150 courses are Freshman Seminars that challenge students to think deeply about a particular topic. COLL 150 works to strengthen written and oral communication. Students engage in in-depth study, with group discussion and deep readings of texts,

data, or methods of inquiry from the discipline. These 4-credit courses fulfill the lower-division writing requirement. One COLL 150 is required of each freshman. COLL 150 is required for transfer students.

Addenda:

- A student must obtain a grade of at least C- to obtain COLL 150 credit for a COLL 150 course. (Approved by FAS September 2, 2014)
- COLL 150 must be taught by a TE or continuing NTE faculty member. Whether TE or NTE, the faculty member will have least one semester of teaching experience at the College of William & Mary. (Approved by FAS September 2, 2014)
- COLL 150s may be offered to qualified students in languages other than English. These courses must contain the language of instruction in the title. Faculty seeking to teach COLL 150s in languages other than English should first seek EPC approval. Over the course of the Spring semester 2016, EPC will work with the Writing Committee, Modern Languages faculty, and other interested parties to develop appropriate criteria for approving such courses.

Rationale: EPC believes that writing-intensive freshman seminars in languages other than English can, for a small number of students who have demonstrated advanced language skills, provide a very worthwhile first-year experience. The purpose of stating the language of instruction in the course title is to make it clear on transcripts that such courses do not satisfy English language requirements for medical school and other post-graduate professional programs.