



General Education Reform Proposal

Academic Senate
January 11, 2017

General Education Reform Committee

Committee membership

Tom Fischer, co-chair
Monica Brockmeyer, co-chair
Bill Volz
Jeff Potoff
Larry Lemke
Loraleigh Keashly
Lisa Alexander
Dan Isaksen
Sandra Gonzales
Heather Lai
Jeffrey Pruchnic

Timeline

- Charged by Provost Winters November 2013
- Began meeting December 2014
- Met ~30 times, focus groups, student/faculty surveys
- Guiding Principles document December 18, 2015
- Presentation to Senate May 4, 2016
- Subcommittees formed and meeting Fall 2016-pres

Comparison of Current with Reform Proposal

Current

Competencies

Basic comp.	}	15 cr.
Interm. comp.		
Oral com.		
Critical thinking		
Math		

Group

Nat Sci	Phys. Sci.	3-4 cr.
	Life Sci.	3-4 cr.

Historical Studies — 3 cr.

Soc. Sci	Amer. Soc.	3 cr.
	Soc. Sci.	3 cr.

Foreign culture — 3 cr.

Hum.	Vis./Perf.	3 cr.
	Philosophy	3 cr.

40 cr.

Proposed

Foundational

Basic comp.	}	12 cr.
Interm. comp.		
Oral com.		
Diversity		

Breadth

Natural Sciences 7 cr.

Social Sciences 6 cr.

Arts and Humanities 6 cr.

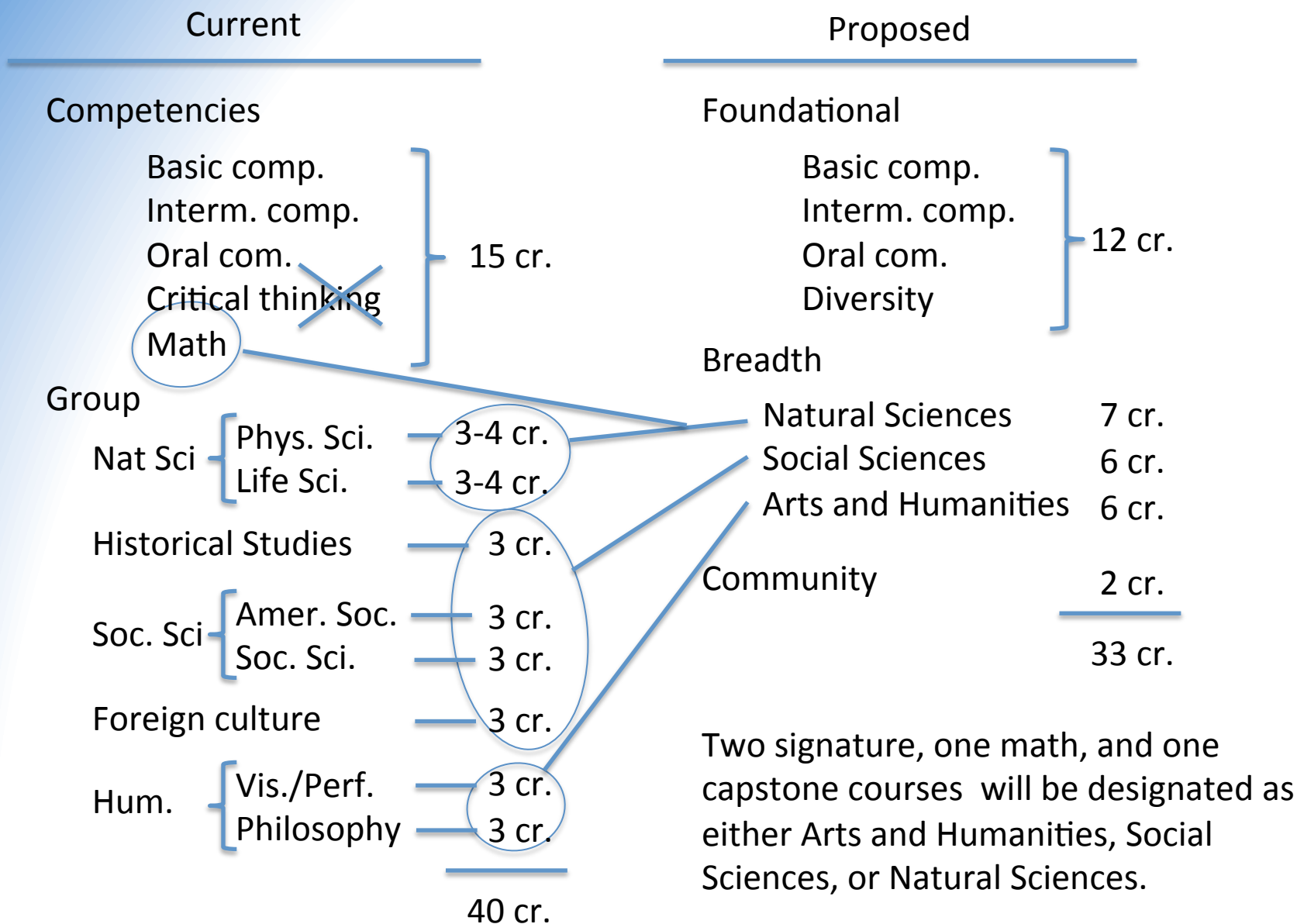
Community

2 cr.

33 cr.

Two signature, one math, and one capstone courses will be designated as either Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, or Natural Sciences.

Comparison of Current with Reform Proposal



Gen Ed Reform Proposal

Year 1 Fall	3 cr	Signature Course (also counts as a Breadth Course)
	3 cr	Composition or Oral Communication Course (linked)
	1 cr	Student community (linked)
Year 1 Winter	3 cr	Signature Course (also counts as a Breadth Course)
	3 cr	Oral Communication or Composition Course (linked)
	1 cr	Student Community (linked)
Years 2-3	3 cr	Breadth Course (Arts/Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences)
	3 cr	Breadth Course (Arts/Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences)
	1 cr	Natural Science Lab course
	3 cr	Quantitative Experience (also counts as a Breadth Course)
	3 cr	Diversity Course
	3 cr	Intermediate Composition
	3 cr	Capstone Signature Course (also counts as a Breadth Course)
Total	33 cr	

Signature Courses

Key Elements:

Students take two of these in first year

Contemporary issues distinctive to WSU*

Address diversity learning outcomes**

Include critical thinking component

Linked to a composition or oral course and a community course

Designated as a Breadth Course as either:

Arts and Humanities

Social Science

Natural Science

*Examples: culture, sustainability, health, ethics, urban development, and renewal

**Intercultural knowledge and competence, global learning, ethical reasoning

Composition, Oral Communication, Community Courses

Composition Course

Paired with a specific Signature Course

Taken either in Fall or Winter semester

Taught by lecturers, PT faculty, and grad students in English, as done now

Oral Communication Course

Paired with a specific Signature Course

Taken either in Fall or Winter semester

Taught mostly by grad students and PT faculty, as done now

Community Course

Taken in both the Fall and Winter semester

Each paired with a specific Signature Course

Taught by an undergraduate student

Activities include: building key skills, improving study habits,
navigation of the University, time management, community
activities, experience local attractions, socialization

Diversity and Capstone Courses

Diversity Course

Explore diversity at domestic level

How diversity issues intersect at local, national and/or global level

Not designated as a Breadth Course

Capstone Course (Community Engagement Course)

Signature course

Engage in a signature topic, linking prior signature and community courses

Course topic paired with community engagement project

Address contemporary issues

Address uniqueness of WSU

Designated as a Breadth Course as either:

Arts and Humanities

Social Science

Natural Science

Breadth Courses and Quantitative Experience

Breadth Courses are designated as either:

Arts and Humanities

Social Science

Natural Science

(Signature, Capstone, and Quantitative count as Breadth Courses)

Students must take:

6 credits Arts and Humanities

6 credits Social Studies

7 credits natural sciences, including one lab

Quantitative Experience:

Only for students who have no math in major

No math prerequisite

Include quantitative reasoning and critical thinking

Designated as a Natural Science Breadth Course

Issues that need to be addressed

Organizational

- How will the Signature Courses, Oral, Writing, and Community Courses be linked?
- Who will train the graduate students and undergraduates?
- Will Oral, Writing, and Community course instructors attend linked Signature course?
- How will students be tracked to insure that they take linked courses?
- How will the Capstone course be linked to the Signature courses?
- How many new courses will need to be developed? Large or small?
- Will the linked courses negatively affect student scheduling?
- How will taking 14 credits in Gen Ed in year one be accommodated in science majors?
- Will this be appropriate for part-time and transfer students?

Pedagogical

- What exactly is a “Diversity” course?
- What exactly is meant by “linking” a course?
- How will the outreach to community groups be managed?
- The Signature, Capstone, and Diversity courses all relate to diversity. Is this needed?
- What is the rationale for a Gen Ed Capstone rather than a Capstone in the major?
- Should a Quantitative Experience course be a Breadth Course?
- How can a natural science class be a Signature Course?
- Would any current science class count as a Signature course?

Issues that need to be addressed

Budgetary

What will be the administrative cost to staff and monitor this program?

How many new courses will need to be developed?

What will be the cost for developing Signature, Diversity, and Capstone courses?

Will there be a budget to assist in this development?

What will be the cost for the the instructors and training in the Community courses?

What will be the total one time and continuing cost for this new program? Where will the funds come from for it?

What will the effect be on the departments that currently have heavy Gen Ed teaching loads?

