

## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**PROPOSED REVISION OF THE FLAG DESCRIPTIONS IN THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES CHAPTER OF THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2012-2014***

On behalf of the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee (UGSAC), Dean Paul B. Woodruff has submitted the following changes in the School of Undergraduate Studies Chapter in the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2012-2014*. The proposed changes have been approved by the dean and the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee (UGSAC) on April 13, 2011. The Secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of *general* interest to more than one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the change on October 5, 2011, and forwarded the proposed changes to the Office of the General Faculty. At its meeting on October 21, 2011, the Educational Policy Committee recommended approval to the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by November 4, 2011.



Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council

**PROPOSED REVISION OF THE FLAG DESCRIPTIONS IN THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES CHAPTER OF THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2012-2014***

Type of Change              X   Academic Change

**1. NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM:** Undergraduate Studies

**2. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT NEAL ARMSTRONG WHO WILL DETERMINE WHETHER SACS-COC APPROVAL IS NEEDED.**

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|--|----|
| • Is this a new degree program?                                  | No |
| • Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? | No |
| • Will courses in this program be delivered electronically?      | No |

**3. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM:**

This is not a change to any program. We are putting current policy into the catalog so as to make information to students more apparent and available.

**3a. Indicate pages in the undergraduate catalog where changes will be made.** Page 18

**4. GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR CHANGE. INDIVIDUAL CHANGES SHOULD BE LISTED SEPARATELY.**

This statement adds to the catalog a clear description of current policy regarding courses carrying more than one flag—a policy that has been in place since the flag system was created. It also allows an improvement in the flag approval process, which has been requested by faculty teaching courses related to cultural diversity in the United States and global cultures.

The general policy allowing students to earn more than one flag with a single course is based on the fact that four of the six flags recognize skills and experiences (writing, quantitative reasoning, ethics and leadership, and independent inquiry) embedded in the context of the course content. However the two cultures flags are assigned based on the actual content of the course. The intent of the original curriculum reform proposal was clearly to have students take a course dealing with cultural diversity within the United States and to take a separate course dealing with global cultures. To maintain the integrity of this goal the cultures flag committee currently does not assign more than one cultures flag to a course. However such a policy does not make the rule explicit. Further, there are a few courses that could legitimately provide students with the opportunity to earn either flag, e.g. a course focused on an immigrant group within the United States. The proposed change to the catalog would allow such courses to carry both flags, thereby allowing students to earn either flag, while maintaining the requirement that students earn the two flags in separate courses.

This catalog change offers no negative impact on degree plans or student requirements, since it will not change current policy or practice, and it will not reduce the number of seats in flagged courses nor will it affect ongoing implementation of the flag requirements. There are many seats available across campus in courses carrying each cultures flag, including a large number in courses in the core curriculum. This change will benefit students enrolled in the small number of courses which will qualify to carry both flags, since these students will be able to choose which of the two flags will count toward their degree.

**5. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE**

**5a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? If yes, then how?** No, but it will clarify practice.

**5b. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain:** Yes, this clarification originated in UGS.

**5c. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion?** No

**6. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS**

UGSAC approval date: April 13, 2011

Dean approval date: April 13, 2011

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**ADDITIONAL BASIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES FLAGS**

In the process of fulfilling the core curriculum and other degree requirements, all undergraduates are expected to complete courses with content in the following six areas:

- Writing: three flagged courses beyond Rhetoric and Writing 306 or its equivalent
- Quantitative reasoning: one flagged course
- Global cultures: one flagged course
- Cultural diversity in the United States: one flagged course
- Ethics and leadership: one flagged course
- Independent inquiry: one flagged course

Courses with sufficient content in these areas will be identified in the *Course Schedule* by the appropriate flags. ~~[A course may carry more than one flag.]~~ The School of Undergraduate Studies monitors flagged courses to ensure that they meet the guidelines set by the General Faculty. When a course is approved to carry more than one flag, enrolled students may use all of those flags to fulfill degree requirements, except that the global cultures flag and the cultural diversity in the United States flag must be earned in separate courses.

Most degree programs are in the process of implementing flag requirements. Students who choose to graduate according to the requirements of the ~~[2010-2012]~~ 2012-2014 Undergraduate Catalog should consult their advisers and the degree requirements listed in chapters 3 through 16 of this catalog to determine which of the flag requirements apply to them.