

GROUP DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

GROUP I - HUMANITIES

Historically, “the Humanities” has designated study of the classical Greek and Latin heritage; in polemical usage, it spoke for a strictly human, as opposed to supernatural or divine, standard for measuring and valuing human affairs. In current academic affairs, the term still carries both of these older significances: it expresses the importance of the study of cultural and artistic heritage; and it affirms the need for consideration of the human being *per se*, and only secondarily as measured by scientific or institutional standards. Therefore, as a group, the Humanities are defined as those areas of knowledge and study which examine and explore human experience and achievement, in order to attain a deeper understanding of the essential characteristics of the human condition.

Subgroup A. These studies involve concern with discerning coherence, order, meaning and significance in human events and ideas. The focus is upon substantial and significant aspects of human experience and upon the development of ideas and ideals. The subject matter may range from the examination of broadly general or universal propositions to the examination of human thoughts and actions in various contexts over a period of time.

Subgroup B. These studies include a focus on the aesthetic dimension of human creative activity. Emphasis in these studies is placed primarily upon the development of aesthetic sensitivity, both intellectual and emotional, based upon critical analysis of the structure and the execution of works of art.

GROUP II - NATURAL SCIENCES

As a group the natural sciences explore and examine natural phenomena in order to establish basic principles concerning the material universe. Its approach includes, but is not limited to, the observation, identification, description, experimental investigation and theoretical explanation of natural phenomena. To these ends the scientific method is crucial, providing as it does the rules for concept formation, conduct of observations and experiments, model-building and validation of hypothesis by empirical means.

Subgroup A. These studies represent an attempt to understand natural phenomena primarily through observation, description and classification. Complex systems are analyzed in terms of the function of each part and their relation to other systems. Categories are developed while preserving their interrelatedness.

Subgroup B. These studies reflect attempts to understand phenomena primarily through experimentation, simplification, quantification and deduction. Simplified models of complex phenomena are used to discover and establish fundamental principles. Mathematics statements concerning those models permit quantitative predictions.

Specific Criteria.

1. Each course should stress scientific approaches and methodologies as well as subject matter.
2. The fundamental goal of each course should be to develop an understanding of basic science.
3. Lab Course Criteria:
 - a. At least 30 clock hours per semester must be spent in lab work for each hour of credit;
 - b. University Program standards are not satisfied by demonstration labs; students must carry out substantially all of the lab work;

- c. Lab courses must demonstrate the same kind of methods as the Subgroup in which they are found.

GROUP III - SOCIAL SCIENCES

The social sciences are defined as those fields of knowledge and study which explore and examine the social dimension (and where appropriate the physical environment) of human life. In these studies an attempt is made to understand the behavior of individuals, groups, and institutions and where possible to establish scientifically- validated propositions.

Subgroup A. These studies involve a focus on the analysis of individual human behavior within society. Studies of such phenomena such as motivation, personality and perception are included.

Subgroup B. These studies involve a focus primarily upon the analysis of the structure and/or functioning of the institutional framework of human societies. An institution is considered to be a set of norms, formal or informal, social, economic, political, legal, etc. which operate in interpersonal and inter-unit relations.

GROUP IV –INTEGRATIVE AND AREA STUDIES

Group IV is divided into three subgroups, each of which has as its characteristic feature a type of subject matter that is more appropriately studied from a variety of perspectives.

Subgroup A: Integrative and Multi-disciplinary Studies. In these studies there is an emphasis on the examination of an issue or a subject from an integrative or multi-disciplinary viewpoint, so as to expose complex relationships and interdependencies within the issue or subject and between it and other issues or subjects. The focus is upon the integration of approaches and methods. The course must address the assumptions that underlie the alternative approaches. The issues or subjects chosen must be recognizable as significant and of continuing interest. Courses in this subgroup must make students aware of the various methodologies needed for adequate study of the issue or subject. The following specific criteria are attached to Group IVA:

1. The perspectives of the respective disciplines should be identified;
2. To satisfy the multi-disciplinary criteria, the methodologies themselves of the pertinent disciplines must be used, rather than simply drawing upon the data or conclusions of scholars or researchers in those disciplines;
3. The assumptions underlying each discipline's approach must be identified.
[Reference: Gen Ed Subcommittee, 10/5/00; Academic Senate 11/21/00]

Subgroup B: Studies in Global Cultures. These studies involve holistic exploration of significant geographical, cultural, or political units outside of the Anglo-American cultural tradition. The courses may be based in more traditional academic disciplines, and may require the student to become familiar with specific disciplinary methodologies; but their major goal should be to acquaint students with the fundamental and distinctive characteristics of the unit (s) under examination. Alternatively this subgroup may be satisfied by taking a course in foreign language which includes cultural study.

A course in global cultures explicitly includes but is not limited to a search for that which makes the unit or units under consideration a unity, i.e., the fundamental considerations linking those found within a geographical, political or cultural boundary and differentiating them from others outside that boundary. [Reference: Academic Senate 12/12/01]

Subgroup C: Studies in Racism and Cultural Diversity in the United States. Courses in this category will focus primarily on one or more of the major groups which experience both racism and invidious discrimination in the United States, but may also include issues of gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Such courses will at least:

1. emphasize the contributions of the group(s) to U.S. society;
2. consider the roots, behavioral and institutional manifestations and consequences of racism, discrimination and stereotyping; and
3. where appropriate, indicate the variation within the focus group. [References for IV.C: Gen Ed. Subcommittee minutes, 11/21/91; UCC minutes, 12/11/91; Academic Senate 1/14/92]

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### GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF UNIVERSITY PROGRAM COURSES

1. While any course offered under University Program Groups I, II, or III may be rooted in a particular academic discipline and may be taught from that perspective, each course so offered must be representative of its subgroup as well as of its own discipline. The fundamental assumption used by the course evaluation committee is that any course so offered is presumed to be the only course taken by a student in that subgroup. As a result, it is suggested that each course emphasize the following elements:

- a. techniques common to its discipline, and to the extent possible, those techniques common to its subgroup;
  - b. value premises commonly recognized as arising from the various issues, theories and methodologies within the coverage of the course.
  - c. limits of any single discipline's approach to the subject at hand.
2. Each course offered under the University Program, in addressing its own subject matter, must be a complete statement in and of itself. In Groups I, II, and III courses may not require specific course prerequisites. In the case of Group IV, submission of 300 and 400 level courses is encouraged and courses with prerequisites will be allowed.
3. Each course offered as part of the University Program must require a significant amount of meaningful writing. Courses may be exempted from the writing requirements if they are shown to require equivalent amounts of computation or public speaking.
4. Each course offered as part of the University Program is expected to include a requirement where practicable, that students attend at least one relevant out-of-class university event and provide a report or reflection on that experience as one component of their grade. Instructors may select an appropriate event or events from lists provided each semester by sources such as campus calendar (<http://events.cmich.edu/>), the Office of Institutional Diversity (<http://www.diversity.cmich.edu/mss/calendar.htm>), etc.

**Implementation Notes:** Instructors will be permitted to augment the lists to include university, department, or community speakers, events, etc. which are determined by the instructor to be particularly valuable to our students and the goals of general education and diversity awareness. It is expected that Instructors will make alternative assignments or suggestions to students who because of class or other conflicts are absolutely unable to attend any of the recommended events. In the case of a time conflict, a class that a student is registered for must take precedent over an assigned event.

[Reference: Academic Senate 3/25/03]

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LIMITATIONS ON STUDENT COURSE SELECTION

1. Students must satisfactorily complete at least thirty hours of University Program courses in order to fulfill University Program requirements. At least three hours must be satisfactorily completed in each subgroup of each of the four University Program groups. Additional hours to complete the University Program may be taken from any group.
2. Unless the degree specifically prohibits it, courses that are required under Other Degree Requirements may also be used to satisfy University Program requirements, provided that the courses are also on the list of University Program courses. University Program courses may also be taken as part of a major or minor unless otherwise restricted.
3. The University Program has been designed to encourage [students] to explore as many different disciplines as possible; therefore, [students] must choose [their] University Program courses from different designators. Only one time may [a student] take a second course with the same designator to satisfy [his/her] University Program requirement. Typically [students] will be required to take courses with nine (9) different designators. [Reference: Gen. Ed. Subcommittee 10/24/91; UCC 2/13/92; Academic Senate 2/19/92]
4. Within Group II, each student must select at least one laboratory experience equivalent to at least one laboratory credit hour. [Reference for change in #4: Gen. Ed. Subcommittee 2/25/93; UCC 3/17/93; Academic Senate 4/13/93]
5. Students must earn a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in University Program courses in order to graduate.
6. Students may not take more than two courses or seven hours of CR/NC in the University Program.
7. CLEP General Examination credit is not accepted for University Program credit.
8. In fulfilling the University Program IVB requirement, [a student] may count up to 3 semester hours (CMU International Program Studies or transfer) for any college or university-level coursework in any department taken at any institution of higher education located outside the United States and Canada. Coursework taken in the Province of Quebec; however, may be used.

If [a student] is interested in participating in international programs, [the student] should note that [he or she] may also apply to the General Education Subcommittee for further University Programs credit for coursework done abroad on a course-by-course basis. Documentation of the nature of the work done in each course (such as syllabi, course outlines, and assignments) is essential. It is [the student's] responsibility to collect and provide such documentation. [Interested students should] contact the Director of International Programs for further information. [Reference: UCC Minutes, 9/30/92]

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Only persons with faculty rank may deliver instruction and assign grades in University Program courses, with the exception of laboratory sections, which may be taught by graduate teaching assistants. Courses involving unusual pedagogies or teaching methods will be considered by the General Education Subcommittee on a case-by-case basis for possible exception to this rule.
2. Any course not previously approved for University Bulletin inclusion must first secure approval through the ordinary University curricular process. Courses already approved for inclusion in the University Bulletin may be submitted directly to the General Education Subcommittee for consideration. Only

University units with authority to offer credit courses may submit courses to the General Education Subcommittee.

3. Any course proposal submitted for inclusion in the University Program must be accompanied by a detailed syllabus signed by the instructor(s) assigned to teach the course. When an instructor who has not previously taught the course is assigned to teach it, the department, before instruction begins, shall see that he/she affixes his/her signature to the approved syllabus.

Approved by the Academic Senate April 26, 1977 and November 29, 1977

Revised 4/3/79; 11/18/80; 2/23/82; 10/8/85; 1/20/87; 2/26/91; 1/14/92; 2/19/92; 4/13/93, 11/21/00;
12/11/01; 3/25/03