

## **Ad Hoc Committee on General Education Course Criteria**

### **Minority Report**

1. The vast majority of UALR students take at least some of their general education courses at other institutions of higher education. Thus, we cannot assume that UALR students will have demonstrated any particular general education course outcomes by the time they graduate from UALR.

2. Therefore, the goal of general education at UALR should be simple: breadth of study. When UALR accepts transfer credits from any regionally-accredited institution of higher education and applies those credits toward general education requirements, the only criterion that is being satisfied is breadth of study.

3. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) established the State Minimum Core Requirements in 1990. These require students to take 35 semester credit hours of course work according to the following distribution plan:

- English/Communications
  - English Composition (6 hours)
  - Speech Communication (0-3 hours)
- Math
  - College Algebra or higher (3 hours)
- Science with Labs (8 hours)
- Fine Arts/Humanities (6-9 hours)
- Social Sciences
  - U.S. History
    - Government (3 hours)
  - Other Social Sciences (6-9 hours)

4. Thus, when considering whether a UALR course should count toward the general education requirements, the only necessary task is to determine if the content of the course fits appropriately into one of the ADHE State Minimum Core categories listed above.

5. Efficient approaches to sorting courses into the ADHE State Minimum Core categories include:

- (a) If UALR offers a course that is substantially the same as a general education course offered at another UA System institution, then the UALR course will count toward general education requirements in the same ADHE State Minimum

Core category as at the other institution. This determination will be made by the Undergraduate Council.

(b) UALR course alphabetical codes can be mapped to the ADHE State Minimum Core categories. The following mapping is suggested:

- English/Communications
  - English Composition (6 hours) – RHET
  - Speech Communication (0-3 hours) – SPCH
- Math
  - College Algebra or higher (3 hours) - MATH or STAT
- Science with Labs (8 hours) - ASTR, BIOL, CHEM, ENHS, ERSC, PHYS
- Fine Arts/Humanities (6-9 hours) - ARHA, CLNG, ENGL, GEOG, HIST, MUHL, PHIL, RELS, THEA, and any 2000-level or above CHIN, CLNG, FREN, GERM, INTR, or SPAN courses
- Social Sciences
  - U.S. History
    - Government (3 hours) - POLS 1310, HIST 2311, or HIST 2312
  - Other Social Sciences (6-9 hours) – ANTH, CRJU, ECON, INTS, MCOM, POLS, PSYC, RACE, SOCI, SOWK

(c) Departments could submit Curriculum Change Forms through the standard curriculum revision process to seek exceptions to (a) and (b) above.