

## Proposed revision to “distributive” requirements in Examining Human Experience courses (EHE) in the Integrative Core Curriculum

From: Peter Kvidera (Director, Integrative Core Curriculum) and the Integrative Core Curriculum Committee

The Integrative Core Curriculum committee proposes that the faculty consider changes to the requirements for Examining Human Experience courses. In brief, the committee recommends expanding the number of departments from which EHE courses can be offered. (We are not recommending changes to ENW or EGC requirements.)

### **Glossary:**

- *EHE: Examining the Human Experience; two linked courses from different departments*
- *ENW: Exploring the Natural World; two linked courses from different departments*
- *EGC: Engaging the Global Community; one course that integrates at least two distinct disciplines, either team taught, or taught as part of a learning community*

Current integrated course requirements:

- **EHE must include one course from AH, CMLC/CL/IC, CO, EN, or HS**
- ENW must include one course from BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, or PS
- EGC must meet the EGC learning goals
- Students must take at least one course from each of {BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, PS}, {AH, CMLC/CL/IC, CO, EN, HS}, and {EC, PO, SC}.

Recommended changes to integrated course requirements: Expand EHE to include “social sciences,” PL, TRS:

- **EHE must include one course from AH, CMLC/CL/IC, CO, EN, HS, EC, PO, SC, PL, or TRS**
- ENW must include one course from BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, or PS
- EGC must meet the EGC learning goals
- Students must take at least one course from each of {BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, PS}, {AH, CMLC/CL/IC, CO, EN, HS}, and {EC, PO, SC}.

### **Rationale for changes:**

While currently, the required course in an EHE pair is a humanities course, the Integrative Core Curriculum committee argues that “human experience” can and should be examined from a number of disciplines and understands that combinations of courses from departments outside of the humanities can also effectively meet the EHE learning goals. For example, a combination of courses from SC and EC or PO and TRS (currently not allowed for EHE) can very well meet the required learning goals of integrated knowledge, critical analysis and aesthetic appreciation, and multiple forms of expression. By expanding the departments that can offer EHE courses, we allow fuller participation from the social sciences, PL, and TRS in the integrated courses.

The committee also understands the current requirement to be driven by the concern that students take a wide variety of courses from different disciplines, something along the lines of the divisional distribution model of the old Core (Distributive) Curriculum. The EHE courses, as originally proposed, ensure that a student fulfills the “humanities” requirement of taking a course from AH, CMLC/IC/CL, CO, EN, and HS. The committee argues that the desired distribution of courses across disciplines will remain intact even with the proposed changes because we will not change the requirement that students must take a course from among the three categories of courses:

- (1) BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, PS;
- (2) AH, CMLC/CL/IC, CO, EN, HS;
- (3) EC, PO, SC.

The proposed changes will allow students more freedom to complete this distribution requirement in a larger variety of integrated courses.

To ensure that students complete these requirements, we would include an attribute on all integrated courses, which notes that a particular course fulfills a particular category (#1, #2, or #3). A student’s degree evaluation will indicate completion of this distribution requirement.

**Note:** One of the courses in a linked EHE pair must come from the list above; the other course may come from any department or program. This allows for the inclusion of courses from ED, WGS, MN, etc., as part of an EHE pair. These other departments and programs can likewise contribute to an ENW pair.