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Department of Theology & Religious Studies  
Memorandum

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TO: Brent Brossman, Ph.D., Director, Core Curriculum  
FROM: Edward Hahnenberg, Ph.D., TRS Chair  
DATE: January 21, 2021  
RE: Minor modification to JH-TRS Core requirement

On December 9, 2020, the TRS faculty voted 7-0 to approve a minor modification to the JH-TRS Core requirement. The current requirement comprises one lower-division and one upper-division TRS course. We propose changing the requirement to two TRS courses, “at least one of which must be taken at the 300 level.” This would, in effect, make explicit the implicit policy in TRS, which has been to approve petitions from students wishing to take a second 300-level course in place of a “lower-level” TRS core course. Often, this results from transient/transfer credits coming in as upper-division TRS. Not only would the change eliminate these petitions, but it would also assist academic advisors and simplify our messaging to students, who could feel free to take their first TRS course at a level (100, 200, or 300) appropriate to their academic progress (first-year, sophomore, junior or senior).

There are two places in the Undergraduate Bulletin that would require revision:

1. Under *Integrative Core Curriculum > Jesuit Heritage*, the 2020-21 UG Bulletin reads:

Students must successfully complete one lower-division course and one 300-level course. The courses have no prerequisites; however, it is recommended that students taking Core TRS courses either complete their foundational writing requirements prior to taking TRS or take EN 125 concurrently.

We propose changing this language in the 2021-22 and subsequent Bulletins to:

Students must successfully complete **two TRS courses, at least one of which must be taken at the 300 level**. There are no prerequisites for lower-level (100s and 200s) TRS courses. EN 125 is a prerequisite for 300-level TRS courses.

2. Under *CAS > Theology and Religious Studies*, the 2020-21 UG Bulletin reads:

The University Core requirement in theology and religious studies is satisfied by two appropriately designated 3-credit TRS courses, one lower-division and one upper-division.

We propose changing this language in the 2021-22 and subsequent Bulletins to:

The University Core requirement in theology and religious studies is satisfied by two appropriately designated 3-credit TRS courses, at least one of which must be taken at the 300 level.