

January 23, 2012

TO: Linda Bisson
Chair, Academic Senate

FR: Margie Longo, Chair, College of Engineering Executive Committee *MLL*
Angelique Louie, Chair, Undergraduate Educational Policy Committee *AL*
Jean VanderGheynst, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies *JSVG*

RE: Request to approve permissions for students in the College of Engineering completing GE3

Students admitted to the College of Engineering (COE) prior to Fall 2011 may elect to complete the new General Education (GE3) requirement rather than the previous General Education (GE2) requirement. We are writing to share some inconsistencies in the designations of courses under GE3 and ask for your approval to allow exceptions to the general education policy to help during the transition from GE2 to GE3.

In the original communication about GE3 it was indicated that all undergraduate courses on campus, with very few exceptions, would be classified in one of the three topical breadth categories. The definition of the topical breadth categories did not change in the move from GE2 to GE3. In the process of determining GE3 designations, not all programs actually gave GE3 topical breadth designation to all of their courses despite the original communication on GE3. This has led to a bold inconsistency in some areas (prime example: the classification of basic foreign language courses is not consistent across campus even when the actual course descriptions are identical with the exception of the name of the language). For example, how do we explain to students that German 1 is Arts & Humanities topical breadth, but Spanish 1 is not?

Considering the inconsistency in topical breadth designations and that the definition of topical breadth categories did not change, the faculty in the College of Engineering have approved a proposal to allow the following for COE students completing GE3:

1. To allow GE3 topical breadth and core literacy designations (domestic diversity and world cultures for social-cultural diversity and writing experience for writing) to apply to coursework taken prior to Fall 2011
2. To allow undesigned lower division foreign language coursework to be used for Arts & Humanities topical breadth credit.
3. To allow undesigned Communication 1 to be used for Arts & Humanities topical breadth credit

We would like to request permission from the Academic Senate to approve the exceptions for all COE students completing GE3.

Our other option at this point is to pursue the provision in the new general education requirement (AS regulation 523D) that allows us to pursue individual program certification of general education requirements. We considered this and determined that making the above exceptions,

particularly during this time of transition, was far more efficient and less confusing for students and ultimately in the best interest of the students in the College of Engineering.