

**University Undergraduate Programs Committee (UUPC) Report of Action Items
Approved at the Meeting of April 20, 2012**

1. Class caps for Writing Across Curriculum (WAC) courses

Concerned with how larger writing classes could affect both teachers and students, the WAC committee is proposing any raises in course caps for WAC courses be vetted through faculty governance, as detailed below in the memo from Director Jeffrey Galin. **The UUPC voted to support the measure.**

TO: University Undergraduate Programs Committee
FROM: Jeffrey R. Galin, Director, WAC
DATE: 4-11-12
RE: Class Caps for WAC Courses

During these difficult financial times, it is no surprise that FAU is facing challenges that are resulting in increased class sizes. The WAC committee is concerned about pressures on colleges and chairs that have led to violations of the Faculty Senate mandate for class caps in WAC courses this coming summer, particularly for first-year writing. Central to these mandates is the recognition that class size has considerable impact on students' success as writers. While class caps across the country for these classes vary (16-27) the vast majority of such class caps are set at 20-23 students. The National Council of Teachers of English sets that number lower: their "Statement of Principles and Standards for the Postsecondary Teaching of Writing" states that "No more than 20 students should be permitted in any writing class. Ideally, classes should be limited to 15." Larger classes will result in less attention to student writing and more students falling through the cracks. In response to recommendations by the WAC Committee and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and additional careful consideration, the Faculty Senate at FAU set caps for 1000 level WAC courses at 22 and 2000-4000 level WAC courses at 27 (including breakout sections for large WAC courses such as Philosophy and History). Any proposed changes to these numbers should move through the same faculty governance channels.

Raising caps on College Writing – ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 and courses designed to substitute for ENC 1102 – to 26 would add four students per class, an increase of 15 percent. For a graduate teaching assistant in the English Department, this would mean eight more students a term (across two classes) and 16 more students a year. In effect, we would be asking already overburdened graduate students to assume 60% of a fifth course for the year. The impact on Instructors is even greater. Faculty teaching a 4-4 load could be in an even worse situation depending on the courses they are teaching. They could be asked to shoulder up to 32 additional students a year, nearly a class and a half of additional students with no additional compensation. Considering these classes require writing assignments every week, the increased workload is unduly burdensome.

The only response that the English Department could conscientiously recommend to its GTAs and Instructors would be to cut back on the number of writing assignments. Since writing improves only with repeated practice, we would be cutting back on our expectations as to outcomes in a time when potential employers throughout the economy are urging us to do just the opposite. These practical considerations are in addition to the general principle that the caps in place are the result of faculty governance procedures based on pedagogical considerations that can only be undone by an equivalent procedure of repeal.

The Committee understands how complex the issues are that are leading to temporary increases in course caps for the summer of 2012. Nonetheless, it is our charge to maintain standards for the

WAC program on behalf of the students across the university in order to insure the quality and integrity of teaching writing at FAU.

Therefore, the WAC Committee recommends the following:

Any raises in course caps for Writing Across the Curriculum courses must be submitted for consideration through the faculty governance process: WAC Committee, UUPC, Steering and Faculty Senate. After summer 2012, the Faculty Senate will not support class sizes above approved numbers unless it has had the opportunity to make determinations of the likely impact on the quality of teaching and learning and then votes to support changes to current limits.

2. Music minor terminations

The Department of Music is proposing terminating all of its minors (aside from Commercial Music) in order to better focus resources on major students, as explained below in a memo from Chair Rebecca Lautar. **The UUPC approved the terminations.**

The Department of Music wishes to eliminate all of our minors except Commercial Music, which will remain in place. This includes the following:

Minor in Instrumental Performance
Minor in Vocal Performance
Minor in Piano Performance
Minor in Music Education

At this point, we only have the room to serve our majors, and the department is only likely to grow in years to come. Our major students must be our primary responsibility.

3. Management major revision

The College of Business' Department of Management Programs is proposing revising its Management major to provide an additional choice in the Leadership concentration in order to offer students more options and maximize resources, as explained below in a memo from Chair Peggy Golden. This would not change the number of credits required. **The UUPC approved the program revision.**

The Department of Management Programs proposes the following change to the University Catalog. We want to update the current Leadership concentration in the management major to add in the option to take either the current course offered as part of the concentration, Operations Management Applications (MAN 4504 - 3 credits), or take Service Operations (MAN 4029 – 3 credits). This is to provide more choices in the concentration.

4. Chemistry major revisions

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is proposing changing its requirements for its Bachelor of Science degree to allow for additional electives and require an additional math course that the department has found necessary as a foundation for other required courses. The additional requirement would not make the program more cumbersome than others throughout the state, the department says, though it would add 6 credits to the program requirements. More information, rationale and support can be found below. **The UUPC approved the changes.**

The faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry on 10th February 2012 has voted to change their degree requirements in the following ways:

B.S. - Comprehensive and ACS-Certified Track

1. Change the “B.S. – Comprehensive”* and “ACS-Certified” tracks to a single “B.S. ACS-Certified” track.
2. The Directed Independent Study course (CHM 4905, 3 credits) will no longer be required and will become an elective.
3. An additional math course will be required, to be chosen from Differential Equations 1 (MAP 2302) and Calculus and Analytical Geometry 3 (MAC 2313).
4. Students will be required to choose three electives, instead of two electives for this degree.
5. The electives for this degree were agreed to be the following: Organic Chemistry 3 (CHM 4220), Biochemistry 2 (BCH 3034), Environmental Chemistry (CHM 3080), Directed Independent Study (CHM 4905) and a new course, Materials Chemistry (CHM 4714).

B.S. - Biochemistry Track

1. The Directed Independent Study course (CHM 4905, 3 credits) will no longer be required and will become an elective.
2. An additional math course will be required, to be chosen from Differential Equations 1 (MAP 2302) and Calculus – Analytical Geometry 3 (MAC 2313).
3. Students will be required to choose two electives, instead of one elective for this degree.
4. The electives for this degree were agreed to be the following: General Microbiology (MCB 3020), Molecular and Cell Biology (PCB 4023), Inorganic Chemistry (CHM 3609) and Directed Independent Study (CHM 4905).

Comparison of Credit Hours Required in B.S. Chemistry Programs Approved by the American Chemical Society

As shown in the table below, the proposed addition of one course in mathematics and one Chemistry elective would bring FAU’s B.S. program more in line with other programs throughout the state. Still, the curricular requirements would remain among the lowest of any ACS-approved program.

Students who desire a degree program in Chemistry that has more flexibility to take courses in other disciplines may opt for the B.A. program, which has significantly less upper-division chemistry course requirements.

Credit Hours Required For Bachelor’s Degree Programs in Chemistry

	Current FAU B.S.	Proposed FAU B.S	FIU B.S.	UCF B.S.	USF B.S.	FSU B.S.	FAU B.A. *
Math	8	11	11	11	11	11	8
Physics	10	10	10	10	8	8	10
Lower Division Chemistry	16	16	16	16	18	18	16
Upper Division Chemistry	32	35	37	43	35	39	17

*Not ACS-Approved

Compiled by J. Haky, April 10, 2012