General Education at the College of Staten Island

Faculty Senate Select Committee on Pathways (The “Lemonade” Committee)

The “Lemonade Committee” was formed to suggest to the general education committee and the faculty senate the best scenario for the College as it is forced to adopt the general education framework known as Pathways.

Principles of General Education at CSI

Students in U.S. colleges and universities are required to take courses in what is called general education. These courses provide a broad and comprehensive introduction to knowledge as it is organized by academic disciplines. General education provides students with the skills and knowledge expected of educated persons:

- to read challenging texts in English and to write clearly and expressively;
- to experience at least one laboratory science as well as mathematics;
- to explore one or more social sciences and to comprehend their different perspectives on individuals and societies;
- to have an introduction to the systematic study of literature and the arts gain competence in at least one foreign language and knowledge of its cultural contexts;
- to understand the historical development of United States institutions and relationships among contemporary world cultures.

General education also serves as an introduction to more specialized kinds of knowledge. Students finish general education courses with the skills and vocabulary that enables them to successfully complete courses in their majors in both associate and bachelor degree programs.

Pathways

The new general education model *dictated* to the CUNY undergraduate schools by the CUNY Board of Trustees to the College is to be implemented through a process known as *Pathways*. This process defines 30 credits of the general education requirements for all students at CSI and gives some parameters for up to 12 additional credits of general education requirements known as the College Option. Details about Pathways are available at [http://www.cuny.edu/academics/initiatives/degreepathways.html](http://www.cuny.edu/academics/initiatives/degreepathways.html).
Pathways in its essentials consists of a Common Core Structure:

I. Required Core:
   A. 6 credits of "English Composition"
   B. 3 (or more) credits of "Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning"
   C. 3 (or more) credits of "Life and Physical Sciences"

II. "Flexible" Core:

Students must take six three-credit liberal arts and sciences courses, with at least one course from each of the following five areas and no more than two courses in any discipline or interdisciplinary field. The five areas are:

   A. World Cultures and Global Issues
   B. U.S. Experience in its Diversity
   C. Creative Expression
   D. Individual and Society
   E. Scientific World

III. The College Option at CSI

The "College Option" allows a Baccalaureate-granting institution, such as the College of Staten Island, to require up to an additional 12 credits for general education. For transfer students, this requirement can be reduced to 6 or 9 credits. For some students in majors that are accredited by outside agencies these credits may not be required.

The Lemonade Committee Suggestions:

The Lemonade Committee adopted the guiding principle that the current CSI general education program be retained with as little loss and disruption as possible. Specifically, the Committee believes that BS programs (excepting the BS in Music programs), which do not currently include a language requirement, should not be obliged to add a new component to the existing general education provisions. In other words, BS students should not, in any new general education model, be required to attain a third level proficiency in language.
I. **Required Core:** 12 credits, all 3-credit courses at the 100-level. Labs required of all science courses. (Course lists are illustrative only, and the list is emphatically not exhaustive).

A. 6 credits of "English Composition" (Illustrative, non-exhaustive)
   - ENG 111, 151
B. 3 (or more) credits of "Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning" (Illustrative, non-exhaustive)
   - MTH 103, 102, 121; 113, 123, 130, 221, 230
C. 3 (or more) credits of "Life and Physical Sciences"
   - BIO 106, 170
   - PHY 102, 103, 114, 116, 120, 150, 153
   - INS 100
   - GEO 100
   - AST 100, 120

II. **Flexible Core:** 18 credits, all 3-credit courses. The current Pluralism and Diversity requirement should be retained and be satisfied within either the Flex or the Option.

A. World Cultures and Global Issues (Unless a student has tested out, an introductory or intermediate language course will be **required**.)
   Other courses in this “bucket” (Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
   - ANT 100 Introduction to Anthropology will be rewritten as Other Peoples Worlds and assigned to the World Cultures bucket
   - GEG 100 II World cultures and Global Issues
   - PHL 101 II A World Cultures and Global Issues
   - INT 100 (Intro to International Studies)
   - SPN 113; FRN 113; ITL 113; CHN 113; ARB 113; ASL 113
   - MUS 105 Intro to World Music
   - ECO/FNC 240 Financial Management

B. U.S. Experience in its Diversity: Conceptually, this may be regarded as two buckets, B1 and B2).

B1. Core 100: **Required.** (If Core is required, the Committee strongly suggests that the Core Committee be restructured to include areas, departments, and programs not represented and that the faculty and administration invest substantially more resources in its implementation)

B2. (Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
   - GEG 222 II B US Experience in Its Diversity
   - POL 100 II B US Experience in Its Diversity
   - MUS 108 Intro to Jazz History
   - MUS 203 Music History I
   - AMS 236/MUS 236 Music in American Life
   - AMS 237/MUS 237 American Musical Theatre
C. Creative Expression (Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
   - ENH 2xx -- as specified by English faculty
   - COM 100; possible media-literacy
   - ART 100 Intro to the Visual Arts
   - MUS 105 Intro to World Music
   - MUS 108 Intro to Jazz History
   - MUS 110 Intro to Music History
   - MUS 120 Rudiments of Music
   - MUS 125 Intro to Music Theory
   - PHO 101 Intro to Photography
   - DRA 100 Intro to Theatre
   - DRA 110 Intro to Acting I
   - DRA 140 Theatre Studies
   - DRA 142 Theater Production Lab
   - DRA 217 Voice and Diction
   - MUS 203 Music History I
   - AMS 236/MUS 236 Music in American Life
   - AMS 237/MUS 237 American Musical Theatre

D. Individual and Society (Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
   - SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology: for Individual and Society
   - PHL 130 II D Individual and Society
   - POL 103 II D Individual and Society
   - ECO 101 Introduction to Economics

E. Scientific World: All courses in the Scientific World category will have a required 1 credit 2 hour lab associated with them
   (Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
   - BIO 107, 180
   - PHY 105, 107, 156, 160
   - GEO 102, 110
   - AST 102, 160
   - CSC 115

III. College Option: All 4-hour courses. Either the Creative Expression or the History/Social Science must satisfy a Contemporary World requirement. Students must take a 200 level course in each of the first three areas)

A. Creative Expression, Literature, Art and Music (Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
   - ENH 218
   - ENH 2xx -- as specified by English faculty
   - DRA 272/73/74 Performance Histories
   - WGS 201 Women, Gender and Sexuality
   - WGS 203 Gender in the Contemporary World
   - WGS 217 Introduction to Women's History
WGS 222 Women in Literature
WGS 230 Sociology of Women
WGS 235 Gender and Sexuality
WGS270 Women and the Fine Arts
WGS 286 Women and American History
MUS 203 Music History I
AMS 236/MUS 236 Music in American Life
AMS 237/MUS 237 American Musical Theatre

B. History or Social Science (Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
(Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
AFA/DRA 202, 205
AFA/AMS 211
AFA/ENH 221
AFA 247/HST 266
AFA/POL 253
AFA 260/HST 207
AFA/HST 262, 263, 265, 269
SOC 240 Minority Groups
SOC 260 Class, Status and Power
INT 200, 201
INT/WGS 203

C. World Languages and Communication (Third Level Language Proficiency or Course required.) (Illustrative, non-exhaustive):
SPN, ITL, FRN, CHN, ARB, ASL 213
Communications, Speech (quantitative or capstone)

D. Lab courses (Illustrative, non-exhaustive): AA
PHY 111, 131, 151, 161
INS 101
GEO 101, 103, 105
AST 101, 103, 105
BIO 1xx
CHM 1xx
ENG 111L (writing lab?)
PED 190
CSC 115

Recapitulation and Addenda:

1. Dedicated workshops or laboratories. Pathways, a one-size-fits-all prescription to general education, has several deficiencies that might be addressed through the College Option. CSI has long been committed to the laboratory sciences, as a means for students to both learn and apply scientific principles. As well, the College is committed to ensuring that sufficient course time be dedicated to the craft of composition. To supplement courses offered in the 30-credit Common
Core, a co-requisite registration with a science lab, writing lab, or other possible labs will be required. These labs will satisfy up to 3 credits of the 12-credit College Option. Student might also use PED 190 to satisfy one credit in this designation.

2. **Writing-intensive courses.** The College, in its support of developing the writing skills of its students throughout its curriculum, should provide a fourth hour for all courses satisfying the college's definition of "writing intensive." Furthermore, the College should move to adopt and implement the CUNY wide definition of “Writing Intensive” and create a Writing Across the Curriculum Program that meets CUNY standards.

3. There are two populations who do not fit into the College Option foreign language requirement: BS students (other than BS in Music students) who do not have to take a foreign language, and BA students who test out of the second and third foreign language courses. Those students will be provided with a list of courses that will replace the language requirement by the appropriate departments (such as, but not limited to, STEM majors and the Business majors).

4. Other options might combine experiential and service learning. It is envisioned that it would take several years for a full array of courses to be created for these populations.

5. The Committee urges that class size caps be reduced commensurate with the reduction from 4- to 3-credit courses, resulting in a 25% reduction in class size. In other words, if a 4-credit course is now capped at 40, the new cap should be 30.

6. The College Option at CSI should be guided by the college's grounding in the liberal arts tradition and by its belief that course content should be intellectually challenging. Thus, the Committee recommends that, except for laboratory courses as outlined below, all courses taken in the College Option should be at the 200-level or higher.

7. The Committee recommends that the Pathways structure be supplemented by additional CSI-specific requirements or overlays to steer students through their general-education selection. These include:
   a. **Pluralism and Diversity requirement.** At least one of the courses taken in a student’s general education sequence must meet the College's criteria for the existing Pluralism and Diversity requirement.
   b. **Contemporary World requirement.** At least one of the courses in the core Creative Expression or History/Social Science areas must meet the College's criteria for the existing Contemporary World requirement.
   c. **Foreign Language requirement for BA students.** All AA and BA students will be required to demonstrate proficiency at the intermediate level of a foreign language, 213 or above. In addition, those BS programs currently mandating this level of proficiency will maintain this requirement. Students may complete the requirement by achieving a passing grade on a proficiency examination, or by taking courses through the 213 level, depending on the results of their placement exam.
   d. **Advanced course requirement.** To ensure students are being challenged through their general education sequence, a BA/BS graduation requirement will be to take at least two 200-level courses in their general education sequence, provided all 12 credits of the College Option were required. These courses will likely be taken to satisfy the requirements of the College Option.
   e. **The 4-credit requirement.** Courses offered to satisfy the three non-lab areas of the College Option may be 4-credit offerings, though credits beyond 3 will count as general elective credits, and not count towards the 12 required. The College will commit to
running a sufficient number of courses of 3-credit offerings, though these may be writing-intensive courses, as mentioned above.