

Proposed Revision to EOU's General Education Curriculum To Take Effect Fall 2006

Current Language for Paragraph Seven of General Education:

Complete the New General Education Curriculum. Complete a minimum of 15 credits in Communication and Critical Thinking, and 45 credits in General Knowledge for a total of 60 credit hours. General Knowledge contains five categories, and students must complete a minimum of nine credits in each.

Recommended New Language:

Complete the New General Education Curriculum. Complete a minimum of 15 credits in Communication and Critical Thinking, and 45 credits in General Knowledge for a total of 60 credit hours. General Knowledge contains five categories, and students must complete a minimum of seven credits, in at least two classes (excluding labs) in each category. No more than twelve credits in each category may count toward the General Education requirement. No one-credit waivers will be given in any category.

Rationale for Change

The current requirement for General Knowledge appears to be based on the assumption that the courses are three credit hours each. If this were the case, the nine hour minimum requirement is very reasonable; students would take three courses in each category and have a total of 45 credits. However, many courses offered in the General Knowledge categories are four or five credits. Two four credit classes do not satisfy the nine hour minimum, and a third four credit class increases the number of credits the student has in the category to twelve. In the worst case, a student would have 60 credit hours in General Knowledge, not 45. Although from an idealistic perspective we might applaud the breadth of knowledge this would provide the students, we must acknowledge the cost in dollars and frustration this situation imposes.

The proposed revision would still mandate that students take at least two courses in each category, and three or more in some categories. The total number of General Knowledge credits would still be 45, but students with seven or eight credits in a category with no one- or two-credit options for completing nine credits could make up the balance in another category. Capping the number of

credits a student could apply in a given category will prevent students from focusing excessively in one area.