

Fall 2008 Actions of the Curricular Policies Committee

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
Northwestern University

The Weinberg Curricular Policies Committee addresses policy matters above the level of individual courses. These include degree requirements, systems of course credit and grading, the creation of new majors and minors, and rules and regulations affecting the College's academic programs.

All proposals for new majors, new minors, and substantial modifications to policies, rules, and requirements must be approved at a general meeting of the Weinberg College faculty. The Curricular Policies Committee makes *recommendations* to the faculty regarding these matters. Proposals put forward by the committee receive a first reading at the next Weinberg faculty meeting, and there is opportunity for discussion and follow-up. Subsequently, and with issues raised in that first meeting addressed, the proposal is placed on the agenda for a second faculty meeting; it receives a second reading, followed by additional discussion and a formal vote. **Changes are not made unless voted on and approved at a general Weinberg College faculty meeting.**

Proposed new Major and Minor in Latina/o Studies

The committee approved a curricular proposal for a Major and Minor in Latina/o Studies, as well as several courses to be offered by a new Latina/o Studies Program. The proposal will be presented to the WCAS faculty in Winter 2009.

Proposed rule change: Interdisciplinary Studies courses and Distribution Requirements

The committee reviewed the current rule regarding the counting of Interdisciplinary Studies courses toward distribution requirements, in light of the increased number of such courses and the emphasis throughout the University on enhancing interdisciplinary options. The result of the review was a vote to recommend eliminating the restriction that students may count a maximum of one Interdisciplinary Studies course in each distribution area. This recommendation will be presented to the WCAS faculty in Winter 2009.

Proposed new option within the English Minor in Writing

The committee approved a curricular proposal for a new Cross-Genre track within the English Minor in Writing. The requirements for the new track will be:

- 4 courses required of all Writing minors:
 - English 206 and either 207 or 208
 - 2 English literature courses on the 300-level, one covering literature pre-1798, the other post-1798
- 2 “core” courses in one genre, chosen from English 306, 307, and 308 or from Center for the Writing Arts courses Writing 301, 302, and 303
- 1 “cross-genre” course either in a different writing discipline (a fiction-writing student can elect a poetry-writing English 306, for example) or 1 course devoted to the crossing of boundaries and literary experiments