

Final Report of the Weinberg Curricular Policies Committee for 2010-2011

May 27, 2011

The Weinberg College Curricular Policies Committee studies and makes recommendations to the faculty about policy matters above the level of individual courses. These include degree requirements, systems of course credit and grading, the creation of department and program majors and minors, and rules and regulations affecting the College's academic programs.

The committee met twice during the 2010-2011 academic year. This is a report on committee activities for the year.

- The committee approved a proposal from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese for a new minor in Portuguese Language and Lusophone Cultures. New majors and minors must also be approved at a general meeting of the Weinberg College faculty. This proposal received its first reading at the general Weinberg College faculty meeting on May 24, 2011.
- The committee lifted the longstanding prohibition on counting credit for music education courses toward a Weinberg College degree. Most music education courses will now count just like other courses from Northwestern schools outside Weinberg, with students limited to a maximum of 11 non-Weinberg units. Courses focused on learning to play musical instruments will count toward the 3-unit applied music limit.
 - As part of this discussion, the committee also voted to eliminate wording prohibiting the use of credits for physical education, shop, and individual instruction in speech. No undergraduate school at Northwestern offers for-credit courses in these areas, and the Registrar's Office does not accept transfer credits for them. Hence, specifically excluding them from counting toward a Weinberg Degree is superfluous.
- The committee approved a policy regarding college-level courses taken after graduation from high school, but before matriculation as a Northwestern freshman. Criteria for counting such courses will be similar to those for college courses taken while still in high school.
- In 2009-2010 the committee began discussing consequences of the University's lifting of the ban on credit for online course work. The discussion continued this year and led to the following decisions related to CFS 291-Analysis of Field Experience, a .25-credit online course associated with summer internships for students required to earn course credit:
 - CFS 291 can be offered for variable credit, ranging between .25 and 1 units. Thus, students will be able to enroll in CFS 291 for a full unit of credit.
 - Although this is an online course, students will be able to count up to 1 unit of credit for CFS 291 toward a Weinberg College degree.

The committee also received an update on plans for adding enhanced online components to three Summer 2011 courses.

Respectfully submitted,

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