

19-20.24: Motion to Standardize Criteria for Courses Designated as General Education in the REAL Curriculum

Referred by: Curriculum Committee

Motion: Faculty Senate recommends adopting the following language to standardize criteria for courses designated as General Education upon the implementation of the REAL Curriculum.

Traditionally, the SACSCOC standard 9.3 (see below) is interpreted to identify courses for general education that 1) are lower level (100-200 at Radford University), 2) are open to all students, and 3) require few or no course prerequisites. Examples include courses currently approved for the Core Curriculum. All general education courses must not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession. Courses at the 300 level may be considered for inclusion as general education if a rationale demonstrates how the other conditions are met.

In order to document compliance with this standard, the Radford University REAL Council, the internal governance body charged with oversight of the REAL Curriculum, requires majors, minors (including REAL Studies minors) and certificates, covering R, E, or A to identify at least one course that meets that definition in order to cover those claimed areas. These courses must be designated as R, E, or A within the REAL Curriculum. Departments may identify any additional courses as General Education as long as they meet the criteria above. All REAL aligned majors, minors (including REAL Studies minors), and certificates must contain at least 3 credits at the 300 level or higher to document coverage of any claimed REAL area.

Undergraduate students must complete at least 30 credit hours of these general education identified courses across their entire program of study. The 30 credit hours may come from any of the R, E, A, or L areas.

SACSCOC RESOURCE LANGUAGE

SACSCOC Standard 9.3 states the following:

“The institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level that:

- (a) is based on a coherent rationale.
- (b) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree program. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent.
- (c) ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/ behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. These courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.”

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