

September 18, 2024

Dr. Ofer Harel,  
Dean and Professor of Statistics  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
University of Connecticut

Dear Dean Harel,

As you know, the CLAS Committee on Curricula & Courses has spent a significant amount of time developing a plan for how the College's requirements will change in the era of the Common Curriculum, beginning in Academic Year 25-26. Last Spring, a ten-member subcommittee worked tirelessly to develop a substantial proposal for our requirements. After that proposal was presented to the full committee in April, I had the privilege to field feedback from both members of our committee and leadership in their home departments. Over the summer, we took steps to preserve the most popular and vital aspects of the proposal while reconfiguring other aspects for simplicity. The result of this work was a "simplified proposal" for CLAS requirements that was shared widely in the College over the past few weeks. The committee met on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> to resolve proposed amendments and some operational questions, and finally to vote on the proposal.

I am pleased today to deliver our recommendation to you for consideration. In its simplest form, we recommend that the College establish the following requirements effective Academic Year 25-26:

1. Continue to require students in CLAS to complete 3 courses in Quantitative Competency (Q), with at least one such course in MATH or STAT.
2. Continue to require students in CLAS to complete the Intermediate Level of a Second Language (SL), or satisfy this requirement through their high school education, the successful completion of a language equivalency exam, or by attaining the Seal of Biliteracy.
3. In their Common Curriculum Coursework, require that CLAS students complete:
  - a. At least two courses (6 credits) which satisfy Topic of Inquiry 2, *Cultural Dimensions of Human Experiences*.
  - b. At least two courses (6 credits) which satisfy Topic of Inquiry 3, *Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice*.
  - c. At least two courses (6 credits) which satisfy Topic of Inquiry 5, *Individual Values and Social Institutions*.
  - d. At least two courses (6 credits) which satisfy Topic of Inquiry 6, *Science and Empirical Inquiry*, with at least 3 of these credits in a Laboratory (L) course.
    - i. This item was altered via a friendly amendment on 9/17.
4. Require that CLAS students complete 3-credit courses in two out of the following three categories, from two different subject codes that reside within the College:
  - a. Communication and Dialogue

- b. Information, Digital, and Media Literacy
- c. Leadership Skills and Ethics
  - i. This category was returned to the proposal via amendment on 9/17: 26 aye, 2 nay, 0 abstentions.
  - ii. The maintenance of all three categories will be managed by the CLAS C&C, with approved courses in each category identified in the course catalog.

This recommendation was approved with overwhelming support by the C&C on 9/17: 24 aye, 1 nay, with 0 abstentions. We understand our role is advisory on such momentous decisions, but I hope you'll support the work we've done to arrive at this proposal and identify common ground across our diverse units, academic traditions, and curricula. It was heartening to see our large group come together to meet a significant challenge.

With your support, I will take these recommendations through the appropriate College and University channels to formally codify them as our new requirements structure and begin the work of preparing for next Academic Year.

Finally, I would be remiss not to thank our original subcommittee for their hard work: Ariana Codr, Elana Comay del Junco, Frank Griggs, Michael Hren, Matt McKenzie, Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch, Fatma Selampinar, and Associate Dean Tribble and Assistant Dean Ndiaye. You undoubtedly know this, but our colleagues in CLAS are exceptional.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Stifano, Ph.D.

Chair

CLAS Committee on Curricula and Courses