

CURRICULUM PROPOSALS: OVER

At a Faculty of Arts Symposium on Majors Programs held last October 12, a committee was appointed to look into some concrete possibilities for curriculum structure in the Arts Faculty at the University of Prince Edward Island. The committee considered that its mandate included the task of providing:

1) That every student graduating with a B.A. degree from U.P.E.I. have a basic acquaintance with most of the major approaches to knowledge offered at the University level and a more detailed knowledge of certain areas of knowledge.

2) That some students achieve a specialist or majors knowledge of one discipline or area of knowledge in addition to the general requirements of the degree.

3) A curriculum which would allow the possibility of eventually creating an honours program in some disciplines. However, since an honours program cannot be fully articulated without resolution of basic questions regarding standards, special honours seminars, honours thesis and so on, the committee did not attempt to include an honours program in the details of the proposed degree structures.

After examining a number of possibilities, the committee decided to present the Faculty with three different proposals, each one of which would meet the above criteria.

The committee hopes that these proposals will generate further discussion & eventually the adoption of a new set of basic requirements for the B.A. degree.

Respectfully submitted,
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Appendix 1 -- Proposed Curriculum Divisions:

Division A: Humanities -- Classics, English, Fine Arts, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Division B: Social Sciences Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology.

Division C: Physical Sciences and Mathematics --- Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

Division D: Professional & Pre-Professional Courses - Business Administration, Computer Science, Education, Engineering, Home Economics, Music, Physical Education, Public Administration.

Proposed Curriculum A (a high degree of structure) 120 semester hours constitute a complete program

leading to a B.A. degree. Students are free to take more than 120 semester hours in order to satisfy both the requirements of the degree and their own interests, but they must select 120 semester hours to satisfy the requirements of the B.A. degree. Students may elect one of two programs, either a B.A. general with a limited amount of concentration in any one discipline, or a B.A. majors, with a large degree of concentration in one discipline or related group of disciplines. Students do not normally choose the program they will follow until they have completed 45 semester hours and are in their fourth semester.

2. Each student proceeding to a B.A. degree should present courses distributed among introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses. Each department is therefore requested to organize and classify its courses into these three levels. The committee proposes that the faculty of arts place limitations on the number of courses each student may elect to take at any one level as follows: a maximum of 42 semester hours at the introductory (100) level; a maximum of 42 semester hours at the intermediate (200) level; a minimum of 42 semester hours at the advanced (300 & 400) level.

3. Among the first 60 semester hours selected by any student proceeding to a B.A. degree, the following are required:

a. 21 semester hours in Division A: 6 semester hours in English, 6 semester hours in History or Classics, 6 semester hours in Philosophy or Religious Studies, 3 semester hours in Fine Arts.

b. 9 semester hours in Division B: 3 semester hours each from three of the following four departments: Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology.

c. 6 semester hours in Division C: 3 semester hours from two of the following four departments: Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics.

4. The committee requests that those departments affected by #3, specifically Fine Arts, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology and Physics, set up one semester courses introducing their discipline to students who do not intend to specialize in that discipline.

5. At the end of his second year or at the completion of his first 60 semester

hours a student must have satisfactorily completed a course proving competence in both spoken & written rhetoric, such as English 151. This requirement may be waived upon satisfactory completion of a test administered by the English Department. Those students who need to take this course, may count this course as satisfying the general English requirement for the degree.

6. Among their total 120 semester hours, students must include at least one course proving competence in a second language. This requirement may be waived upon satisfactory completion of a test administered by the Modern Languages or Classics Departments.

7. Upon satisfactory completion of the first 60 semester hours, a student may elect to take one of two programs, a general program with limited concentration, or a majors program with defined concentration in the department or multi-disciplinary program of his choice. If a student finds neither of these alternatives congenial, he may elect to work out his own program for the remaining 60 semester hours with a faculty member of his choice and register his program with the appropriate Dean.

8. Those students electing to take a general degree should consult with a faculty member of their choice and work out a selection of courses to cover the final 60 semester hours. In order to ensure that the general degree remain general, students may not take more than 30 semester hours in any one department or approved multi-disciplinary program. (In order to facilitate the selection of courses and development of multi-disciplinary programs, departments are encouraged to cooperate and crosslist courses which cover material of interest to more than one discipline, e.g. Classics 101 could be crosslisted as History 101.)

9. In order to guide students taking a general degree, the university may wish to publish suggested combinations of courses to be taken during the final two years which ensure that a student takes a sound general program.

10. Those students electing to take a majors degree, must consult with the department or multi-disciplinary program of their choice and follow the requirements outlined by that department or program. It should be noted that not all departments

need offer a major at some departments wish to cooperate a joint major would also be noted departments may make requirements are best satisfied the first two years

Proposed Curriculum (Lower Degree of

1. 120 semester hours constitute a complete program leading to a degree. In their first year or upon satisfactory completion of 45 semester hours, students follow one of two a general program with a limited amount of concentration, or a more specialized majors program.

2. Each student proceeding to a B.A. degree take courses distributed among introductory, intermediate and advanced courses. Each department therefore urged to organize and classify its offerings into three levels. The committee proposes that limitations be placed upon the number of courses a student may elect to take at any one level as follows: a maximum of 42 semester hours at the introductory level; a maximum of 42 semester hours at the intermediate (200) level; a minimum of 42 semester hours at the advanced level.

3) In selecting courses for the first 60 semester hours students are urged to consult with a faculty member from among as many departments as possible and work out a selection of courses to cover the final 60 semester hours. In order to ensure that the general degree remain general, students may not take more than 30 semester hours in any one department or approved multi-disciplinary program. (In order to facilitate the selection of courses and development of multi-disciplinary programs, departments are encouraged to cooperate and crosslist courses which cover material of interest to more than one discipline, e.g. Classics 101 could be crosslisted as History 101.)

4. Of the 120 semester hours presented for a B.A. degree, no more than 30 semester hours may be taken in any one division. It should be noted that students may take more than 120 semester hours in order to satisfy both their interests and the requirements of the degree.

5. All students proceeding to the B.A. degree, must take one course in written and spoken rhetoric, such as English 151. This requirement may be waived upon satisfactory completion of a test administered by the English Department.

6) Those students electing to take a majors degree must follow the requirements of the department or program of their choice for the final two years.