Northern Illinois University

Faculty Senate
September 3, 2014
This information is tentative, pending:

- Provost feedback
- Final public input
- Curricular approval
- Catalog changes
Tentative Curricular Objectives and Recommendations

- High impact practices
- General education integration & flexibility
- Baccalaureate goals and SLOs
Potential reduction of up to 11 credits in the baccalaureate as long as a student:

- completes their general education program at NIU
- takes major area courses that also satisfy general education requirements
- takes major area/general education courses that satisfy the new enhanced writing requirements
- takes a major area equivalent to the new UNIV 301 capstone
PLUS Baccalaureate Enhancements

Four High Impact Practices for all students

- Two upper-division “writing-infused” courses
- First-year experience (redesigned UNIV 101/201)
- Engaged Learning:
  - Courses
  - Co-curricular practices
- Career Success (UNIV 301 or equivalent)

LEAP Initiative HIPS

- First-Year Seminars and Experiences
- Common Intellectual Experiences
- Learning Communities
- Writing-Intensive Courses
- Undergraduate Research
- Diversity/Global Learning
- Collaborative Assignments and Projects
- Service Learning and Community-Based Learning
- Internships
- Capstone Courses and Projects

George D. Kuh LEAP Report, October 2008 / AAC&U
• 13 courses, 39 hours
• Core competencies + four distributive areas
• Specific general education goals

• 11 courses, 33 hours
• Four areas of study
• Eight student learning outcomes
Develop the competencies necessary to succeed academically and personally

- Think critically and creatively
- Reason quantitatively and qualitatively
- Communicate clearly and effectively
- Work collaboratively across disciplines
Continuation of the foundational competencies

- Assure exposure to a broad array of ideas and disciplines
- Explore ways of obtaining and interpreting information
- Broaden traditional distributional areas
- Increase both the range and number of general education courses available
Potential IAI Code Articulations into PLUS Domains

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- All IAI-coded courses will articulate into an area of study
PLUS Pathways

• A pathway is a body of course work drawn from all three knowledge domains that examines a theme from different disciplinary perspectives

• Courses in a pathway coalesce around a set of large questions
  • that are central to the pathway theme

• Possible Pathways
  – Human Heritage
  – Human Learning
  – Health & Wellness
  – Identities
  – Innovation & Creativity
  – Global Affairs
  – Power & Social Justice
  – Sustainability

• Pathway lead to transcript documentation
  – **Focus**: one course from each Knowledge Domain

  – **Minor**: one lower-division course from each Knowledge Domain, plus three upper-division courses from two Knowledge Domains
General Education New Course Pathway Participation

**Existing Courses**

1. Choose Area of Study
2. Pathway Application
3. Placement into: Pathway

**New Courses**

1. Pathway Application
2. Placement into: Area of Study and Pathway
Summary and Timeline

This information is tentative, pending: provost feedback, final public input, curricular approval, and final catalog insertion

- **High Impact Practices** - all students will experience high impact practices

- **General education integration & flexibility** - greater flexibility through the inclusion of knowledge domains and pathways

- **Baccalaureate goals and SLOs** - the Office of Assessment Services is completing a plan to assess how well the undergraduate addresses these goals and SLOs

Timeline

- September
  - Provost
  - Public Comment
- November
  - Committees
- January 2015
  - GE Course transformation
- Fall 2015
  - First Stage Implementation

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