



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman
Chair, Executive Committee

FROM: Mr. David Shipley
Chair, University Curriculum Committee

DATE: August 25, 2010

SUBJECT: University-wide Undergraduate Requirement

The following proposal for a University-wide undergraduate requirement for a first-year Odyssey Seminar was approved by the Full University Curriculum Committee on August 25, 2010, and is submitted to the Executive Committee of University Council for consideration:

New University-wide Undergraduate Requirement:

All first-year undergraduate students who matriculate fall semester 2011 and thereafter must successfully complete one First-Year Odyssey Seminar by the end of the first year in residence. This policy excludes transfer students.

Attached for your information is a copy of the memo from Dr. Rodney Mauricio, Chair of the QEP Committee, and a copy of the approved new course, First-year Odyssey Seminar, FYOS 1001.

cc: Professor Jere W. Morehead
Dr. Laura D. Jolly

To: University Curriculum Committee

From: Rodney Mauricio, Chair, QEP Committee; Associate Professor of Genetics

Date: August 17, 2010

Re: SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation; Quality Enhancement Plan

As many of you know, a large committee of faculty, administrators, staff and students (39 persons in total) has been working through an extensive grass-roots process for more than 2 years to develop UGA's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a mandatory and critical new requirement for SACS reaffirmation of accreditation. The primary aim of the QEP is to construct an initiative that improves undergraduate student learning on our campus.

Our new QEP focuses on developing a 1 credit *academic* seminar, called the "First-Year Odyssey" (FYO). We believe that the scale of engaging each of almost 5,000 first-year undergraduates in an academically, institutionally, and personally rich experience has the potential to transform our campus. Students will share a common academic experience with a tenure-track faculty member in the very first semester of residence.

The broader goal of the FYO seminar is to immediately engage each first-year undergraduate student in a culture of academic rigor, investigating the instructional, research, public service, and international missions that define the University of Georgia. By introducing every incoming undergraduate to the core missions of our university, we believe that students will come to a deeper appreciation for the critical importance of the research, land-grant, university. This goal has deep implications for institutions like ours.

As a member of UCC and chair of the QEP committee, I have provided updates of the progress of the QEP through its development over the past 2 years to UCC, as well as University Council. The Leadership Committee (President Adams, senior administrators and faculty) has been involved at each step of the development of the QEP and, on July 20, 2010, approved the QEP.

Although the full report is not yet complete, the essential academic elements of the QEP are ready to be considered formally through the university governance process. The Leadership Committee has charged the Office of the Vice President for Instruction with implementing the QEP. This proposal is being submitted to UCC for discussion at its August 25, 2010 meeting. At that meeting, we can discuss the proposal in full and decide to vote to move it on to full Council or to defer a vote until our September meeting.

As you can see, this proposal is focused on the essential academic elements of implementing our QEP: a new course prefix (FYOS), a new course (FYOS 1001) and a requirement that all incoming first-year undergraduate students (transfers exempted) successfully complete one FYO seminar before the end of their first year in residency.

The QEP represents an enormous amount of work by a large and diverse group over a long period. At all stages of its development, input was sought broadly from the university community. If you have any questions or concerns about this proposal or the QEP as a whole, please feel free to contact me (mauricio@uga.edu) at any time.

The University of Georgia

New Course Proposal

1. COURSE ID: FYOS 1001

2. TITLES

Course Title: First-Year Odyssey Seminar
Course Computer Title: FIRST YEAR ODYSSEY

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A seminar to engage first-year students in the academic culture of the University. Seminars will promote meaningful academic dialogue between students and faculty in a small class setting that encourages reflective thinking and learning to learn. Varied topics based on faculty scholarship. Exploration of the unique learning environment at UGA, including opportunities to engage in research, public service, and varied forms of instruction, both on campus and globally.

4. GRADING SYSTEM

A-F (Traditional)

5. CREDIT HOURS AND LECTURE/LAB/DISCUSSION HOURS

	FIXED	VARIABLE
Credit Hours	1	
Lecture Hours	1	

6. NON-TRADITIONAL FORMAT(if lecture/lab hours or lecture/discussion hours are fewer than credit hours, please justify)

7. REPEAT POLICY

Course cannot be repeated for credit

8. DUPLICATE CREDIT STATEMENT(do not list quarter course IDs)

9. REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

10. PREREQUISITE OR COREQUISITE COURSES

11. COREQUISITE COURSES

12. PRIMARY DELIVERY MECHANISM (select only one):

Seminar

13. COURSE WILL BE OFFERED

Every Year

14. EFFECTIVE SEMESTER AND YEAR OF CURRENT VERSION OF COURSE

Fall 2011

15. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE SYLLABUS

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will:

- Enhance student-faculty interaction in a small class setting
- Document academic dialogue through writing, revision and resubmission
- Open channels of communication between students and faculty
- Develop students' skills for creative thought and effective reasoning
- Promote intentional and reflective learning
- Expose students to opportunities to engage in research, public service, and varied forms of instruction both on campus and globally (e.g., study abroad, practicums, internships)
- Expose students to campus events that highlight an aspect of the mission of the University

TOPICAL OUTLINE

UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE AND ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." *A Culture of Honesty*, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi. Every course syllabus should include the instructor's expectations related to academic integrity.

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