

**QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT**

FROM: Frank Cotty, Chair, Committee on Curriculum
TO: K. Villani, Secretary, Academic Senate Steering Committee
CC: P. Pecorino, Dean K. Steele, College Archives (C. Williams)
DATE: February 23, 2007
SUBJECT: Monthly Report for March 2007

The Committee on Curriculum recommends the following for adoption by the Academic Senate:

COURSE CATALOG REVISIONS:

Foreign Languages and Literature

QCC Catalog, Page 33:

FROM:

Foreign Language Placement

[Some degree programs at Queensborough include a foreign language requirement. Entering students need to file an assessment form with the Department of Foreign Languages and in order to be placed in foreign language courses by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. This initial assessment form is mailed from the Admissions Office to incoming students and can also be downloaded from the College Web site: www.qcc.cuny.edu (Go to Foreign Language section: printable forms.)] Students with prior studies in foreign languages not taught in Queensborough Community College are encouraged to directly contact the chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. For more information, call the Foreign Languages Office at 718.631.6259.

TO:

Incoming students in Liberal Arts and Sciences (LA), Liberal Arts and Sciences (Math and Sciences: LS), Health Sciences (HS), Fine Arts (FA), Dual/Joint Liberal Arts and Education (LE), and Business Administration (BT), will receive a letter from the Department stating that they have a foreign language requirement to fulfill, and will be asked to complete a questionnaire available on the departmental website. The questionnaire will determine their language of choice, and inquire about their previous formal or informal exposure to the language. According to the answers given, the student will be directed to:

_____ -register in a Beginners' Class, or

_____ -take a Placement test...

Students with prior studies in foreign languages not taught in Queensborough Community College are encouraged to directly contact the chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. For more information, call the Foreign Languages Office at 718.631.6259.

QCC Catalog, Page 70:

FROM:

Foreign Language 6-8

[Two Semesters of the same language are required, as determined by the student's high school background.*]

*Students with prior study in languages not taught at the College should see the Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for evaluation.

TO:

Foreign Language 6-8

Two sequential language courses are required (level and sequence of courses are determined by students' previous knowledge and/or performance on departmental placement exam).*

*Students with prior study in languages not taught at the College should see the Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for evaluation.

QCC Catalog, Page 77:

FROM:

(a) Foreign Language (3 to 8 credits)

1. Students who present 2 or more high school units of a foreign language will be required to [(a) take 3-4 credits of the same foreign language [at the appropriate level in accordance with language placement procedures], or 9b) 6-8 credits in another foreign language.] **(Note: All Fine and Performing Arts students must complete at least 3 foreign language credits.)**

Students who present less than 2 high school units of the same language will be required to take 6-8 credits of the same or a different foreign language.

TO:

(a) Foreign Language (3 to 8 credits)

1. Students who present 2 or more high school units of a foreign language will be required to:

(a) take 3-4 credits of the same foreign language, or

(b) 6-8 credits in another foreign language (level and sequence of courses are determined by students' previous knowledge and/or performance on departmental placement exam).

(Note: All Fine and Performing Arts students must complete at least 3 foreign language credits.)

2. Students who present less than 2 high school units of the same language will be required to take 6-8 credits of the same or a different foreign language.

QCC Catalog, Page 152

FROM

**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
A.A. or A.S. DEGREE**

• **A.A. — Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree**

[Two college semesters of the same language are required as determined by the student's background.] Students who have prior foreign language instruction in languages not taught at Queensborough should see the chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

• **A.S. — Liberal Arts and Sciences (Mathematics and Science) Degree**

[Requirements are determined on the basis of the student's high school background.]

• **A.S. — Business Administration (Transfer) Degree**

[Completion of Elementary Language II (LA-112) in any language (French, German, Hebrew, Italian, or Spanish) is required for all students who present less than three high school units in one foreign language.]

Note on Language Requirements for Degrees: Students are advised to begin their foreign language requirements in their first semester, and complete their language sequence without interruption.

LANGUAGE PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

Students may choose to:

1. continue a language previously studied [(after being placed in the proper course by a departmental adviser),]

or

2. start a new language of their choice.

TO:

Language requirements for the A.A. or A.S. Degrees

• **A.A. – Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree**

Students are to complete two sequential language courses (level and sequence of courses are determined by students' previous knowledge and/or performance on departmental placement exam). Students who have prior foreign language instruction in languages not taught at Queensborough should see the chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

• **A. S. – Liberal Arts and Sciences (Mathematics and Science) Degree**

Requirements are determined on the basis of the student's high school background and/or performance on departmental placement exam.

• **A. S. Business Administration (Transfer) Degree**

Completion of Elementary Language II (LA- 112) in any language (Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, or Spanish) is required for all students who present less than three high school units in a foreign language.

Note on Language Requirements for Degrees: Students are advised to begin their foreign language requirements in their first semester, and complete their language sequence without interruption.

Language Placement Procedures

Students may choose to:

1. continue a language previously studied (level and sequence of courses are determined by students' previous knowledge and/or performance on departmental placement exam).

OR

2. start a new language of their choice.

Rationale: Current placement procedures in the Department of Foreign Languages have been based upon the number of years of foreign language study students can document having made in secondary school or other colleges. The Department of Foreign Languages wishes to modify this system, and introduce a placement system based upon student performance on a standardized, computerized test. Incoming students in LA, LS, LE, FA, and BT will receive a letter from the Department stating that they have a foreign language requirement to fulfill, and will be asked to complete a questionnaire available on the departmental website. The questionnaire will determine their language of choice, and inquire about their previous formal or informal exposure to the language. According to the answers given, the student will be directed to

- register in a Beginners' Class, or
- take a Placement Test¹

Placement Tests will be offered twice a month throughout the year in the Foreign Language Department. There will be more testing days during the weeks prior to registration. Twelve adjunct hours will be needed to cover the six summer testing dates. The proctors on duty will place the students according to their scores. The placement results will be recorded in the student database so that they will be available to advisors. Instructors would still have a final word on student placement whenever the accuracy of the score is doubtful.

This new placement procedure would resolve **three main** difficulties that have arisen with the current system:

- High School study is not always the best indicator of a student's actual proficiency level. Very often students who have taken a foreign language in secondary school for three consecutive years have not reached the proficiency level required for intermediate college courses.
- Spanish and French beginning level classes are experiencing a large presence of heritage and native speakers of those languages. Their enrollment is justified by the fact that they did not formally study them in secondary school. As a result, beginning students of French or Spanish are 'forced' to share their class with native or quasi-native speakers. This is very intimidating for someone who is just starting to learn the language, and, certainly, is not conducive to learning.
- A number of students take language courses as electives. Because their course choice is not regulated by any departmental policy, they are allowed to enroll in any language course they wish to attend. As a result, many native speakers are found in beginning

¹There will be a different test for students who have identified themselves as heritage/native speakers of the language of choice.

classes because they are looking for an undemanding course. However, their minimal dedication and interest in the class often creates a disruptive and intolerable atmosphere for the other students.

Department of Biological Sciences and Geology

The Department of Biological Sciences and Geology, in collaboration with the Department of Nursing, and the approval of the Massage Therapy Program in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Dance, would like to propose a time limit on course work in Anatomy and Physiology and Microbiology previously taken and/or attempting to transfer to the College. This time limit would require transfer students to have taken Anatomy and Physiology courses within a period of six (6) years, and Microbiology courses within a period of five (5) years.

Course Catalog Revision:

QCC Catalog, Page 128

FROM:

Students wishing to apply with advanced standing having taken one year of Anatomy and Physiology (BI-301 and BI-302) at another institution or even at QCC should be aware that course work taken more than eight (8) years ago will not be accepted and that time limits of Microbiology (BI-311) is only five (5) years.

TO:

Students wishing to apply with advanced standing having taken one year of Anatomy and Physiology (BI-301 and BI-302) at another institution or even at QCC should be aware that course work taken more than six (6) years ago will not be accepted and that time limits for Microbiology (BI-311) is only five (5) years.

Rationale:

- Course work taken beyond the proposed time limits is not acceptable because our knowledge of the subjects has changed appreciatively. One can posit that the structure and form of the human body has not altered within recent history but our understanding of the physiology of our bodies has. The current literature is expanding all the time with new discoveries, findings and interpretations of how our bodies work. We are hard pressed just to keep our students informed of what we now know rather than let them think that what they learned several years is still valid.
- The time limits in Microbiology are even more critical. Again, one just has to look at the daily newspapers to see discoveries of new microorganisms and of our constant struggle to keep ahead of microbial resistance to our current arsenal of drugs or a new outbreak of a hitherto unknown pathogen or one we thought we had under control. These subject matters are constantly changing and evolving even on a daily basis.
- Dr. Maureen Wallace, collected data from a recent meeting of the New York State Associate Degree Council, which is the discipline specific group for the State of New York. Twenty programs from across the State (including other CUNY programs) responded to a two page questionnaire related to time limits in the biological sciences. Almost every one of them has a time limit (usually five years) or contemplating it; consistent with what we are proposing. In addition, the Nursing Department

Admissions Committee has collected data showing a very strong and direct correlation between grades earned in the three biological science courses and ultimate success in the program. Course work taken several years ago is simply no longer relevant or forgotten over time. There is no question that it would ultimately improve their chances of getting through the program.

- Dr. Lisa Mertz, coordinator of the Massage Therapy program, indicates that most, if not all, of the New York registered Massage Therapy Schools have a time limits on Anatomy and Physiology transfer courses. They range from 5 to 10 years. The SUNY Community Colleges have college-wide policies that cover both Massage Therapy and Nursing.
- This initiative will also help those students who present 10 and 20 year old course grades which were woefully inadequate for admission in the current competitive environment. They will have to repeat those courses under this proposed policy and will therefore have an opportunity to increase their chances of obtaining a seat in the Nursing program based on their current knowledge and maturity.

NEW COURSES

Department of Biological Sciences and Geology

BI-455: Introduction to Biological Research
 2 class hours, 4 laboratory hours, 4 credits
 Prerequisite: BI 201
 Co-requisite BI202 and Permission of Instructor

Course description:

An introduction to current biological techniques including protein biochemistry, molecular biology and microbiology. Other topics include laboratory safety, scientific literature review, analysis and interpretation of data; written and oral communication of results. Students will be expected to carry out group or independent research projects under the direction of the instructor.

Rationale:

- The outstanding success of students in the Chemistry capstone course as well as those in the NIH-Bridges Program demonstrates the benefits of a research experience to QCC students. As recently stated by CUNY program evaluators: “high quality undergraduate science requires that undergraduate students participate in high level research” (2006 Doctoral Program Evaluation).
- Mastering research technique (s) and communication skills will prepare students for selection into competitive research programs.

BI-554: Research Laboratory Internship
 90 hours; 2 credits
 Prerequisite: BI 201 and Permission of Instructor

Course description:

This internship provides an opportunity to learn advanced techniques and gain practical experience working in a modern research laboratory. Students are placed with selected research laboratories for a minimum of 90 hours. Course requirements include submission of a detailed lab notebook and a final report summarizing the activities at the end (exact schedule

to be arranged with affiliated lab) of the internship. A final grade will be determined by the internship coordinator based upon the final report, lab notebook, and lab supervisor's evaluation.

Rationale:

- The outstanding success of students in the Chemistry capstone course as well as those in the NIH-Bridges Program demonstrates the benefits of a research experience to QCC students. As recently stated by CUNY program evaluators: "high quality undergraduate science requires that undergraduate students participate in high level research" (2006 Doctoral Program Evaluation).
- Expanding the range of research opportunities will allow more students to experience the rewards of research.
- Senior college faculty and students will serve as role models demonstrating the fundamentals characteristics of a researcher
- Early interaction with the senior college will facilitate transfer to baccalaureate science programs.
- Mastering research technique (s) and communication skills will prepare students for selection into competitive research programs.

PROPOSED COURSE CHANGES

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology

ET-504: Operating Systems and System Deployment
1 class hour 2 laboratory hours 2 credits

Proposed change (increase one laboratory hour):

FROM:

[1 class hour 2 laboratory hours 2 credits]

To:

1 class hour 3 laboratory hours 2 credits

Catalog Course Description (for reference and referral only, no changes):

This course covers a number of operating system types such as: single tasking, cooperative, preemptive, multithreading and multitasking systems. Current operating systems are deployed under various environmental configurations. Operating systems and programs will be installed using Remote Network Access Services. The Internet will be utilized to download drivers, apply corrective service packs and updates. The entire course is available over the Internet via a Blackboard Server.

Rationale – Operating systems have increased in their sophistication, complexity and installation requirements. Internet and web technology has changed considerably since this course was first proposed more than ten years ago. Important issues never previously encountered such as security, user management and system integrity must be confronted before the operating system can be exploited.

The amount of time needed to merely install the operating system has increased immensely. Increased time is also required to prepare the computer before the operating system can be installed. Imperative tasks like operating system management and administration, adding system users, installing peripheral drivers and other devices, user profiles, Internet connections, mail administration, system backups, etc. have all increased in scope as well as the time required to actually perform these tasks. These issues have made teaching ET504 laboratory extremely difficult and has limited the topics that can be covered in the two hour laboratory.

New state-of-art operating systems such as Microsoft's Vista will require even more time to explore. Vista will be available in many different forms. These operating system variations are targeted to specific audiences. Studying these variations will be a necessity that will require additional laboratory time.