Pathways to Degree Completion
The City University of New York

Second Retreat of the Task Force

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October 14, 2011
Primary Motion to Structure the Common Core

**English Composition:** 7 credits

**Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning:** 4 credits

**Natural and Physical Sciences:** 4 credits

**Flexible Common Core Credits:** five, 3-credit, liberal arts courses for 15 credits in the following four areas, with at least one course from each area and no more than one course in any particular discipline.

1. **World Cultures**—courses drawn from foreign languages, anthropology, history, political science, economics, world literature, and other fields addressing global cultures.

2. **U.S. Experience in its Diversity**—courses drawn from history, political science, economics, sociology, U.S. literature, and other fields addressing the U.S. experience in its diversity.

3. **Creative Expression**—courses drawn from the fine arts, creative writing, communications, music, theater, and other fields addressing creative expression.

4. **Individual and Society**—courses drawn from anthropology, philosophy, psychology, religion, computer science and other fields addressing the relationship between the individual and society.
Secondary Motion to Structure the Common Core

English Composition: 6 credits

Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning: 3 credits

Natural and Physical Sciences: 3 credits

Flexible Common Core Credits: six 3-credit, liberal arts courses for 18 credits in the following areas, with at least one course from each area and no more than one course in any particular discipline.

1. World Cultures—courses drawn from foreign languages, anthropology, history, political science, economics, world literature, and other fields addressing global cultures.

2. U.S. Experience in its Diversity—courses drawn from history, political science, economics, sociology, U.S. literature, and other fields addressing the U.S. experience in its diversity.

3. Creative Expression—courses drawn from the fine arts, creative writing, communications, music, theater, and other fields addressing creative expression.

4. Individual and Society—courses drawn from anthropology, philosophy, psychology, religion, and other fields addressing the relationship between the individual and society.

5. Scientific World—courses drawn from computer science, the natural and physical sciences, mathematics, statistics, logic, technology studies, and other fields addressing the scientific world. [There is a question whether this area is included.]
Recommendation on 4-Credit Math and Science Courses

- Colleges will be *required* to offer enough 3-credit courses for all students to satisfy the Common Core.

- Colleges will be *allowed* to offer 4-credit courses to satisfy the Natural and Physical Sciences and Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning credits of the Common Core, particularly for those who intend to major in STEM fields, provided:
  
  - Exemption applies only to math and science courses.
  
  - The CUNY-wide Committee will not approve any 4-credit course until after the submitting college has had approved a sufficient number of 3-credit science courses for students’ general education.
  
  - A college cannot require a student to take a 4-credit course to satisfy any area of the Common Core.
  
  - A college must certify that 4-credit courses submitted for the Common Core count toward the major in that field.
Learning Outcomes in the Pathways Project

Board resolution, June 14, 2011

The Task Force will develop the broad disciplinary or interdisciplinary areas constituting the Common Core for the University, as defined by learning outcomes.

...all CUNY undergraduate colleges will specify individual courses for this Core. These courses must meet the approved learning outcomes. Working with the colleges, the University Office of Academic Affairs will facilitate the expeditious review and approval of all courses proposed for the Common Core with the assistance of a CUNY-wide committee, appointed by the Chancellor, and consisting predominantly of faculty, to ensure that all learning outcomes are satisfied.
Learning Outcomes in the Pathways Project

• Learning outcomes will define the boundaries of the broad curricular areas in the Common Core.
• They will determine which college courses will fit within different areas.
• Learning outcomes could be written to allow alternatives within areas. One approach might be to offer a general statement of overall learning outcomes for each area, followed by bullet points on the different forms of study that would allow fulfillment of the broad learning outcomes.