

Diversity Requirement Course Approval Guidelines
Prepared by the Diversity Requirement Implementation Task Force
(Revised July 2014)

In May 2013 the faculty of the University of Washington approved a diversity graduation requirement for all bachelor's degrees. President Young signed the legislation June 13, 2013. The proposal for the requirement originated with the Student Diversity Coalition, was supported by ASUW and the University Diversity Council, and was discussed and worked on by the Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs, the Faculty Council on Women in Academia, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Faculty Senate.

In July 2013 Provost Ana Mari Cauce appointed an implementation task force composed of those deans and undergraduate curriculum directors overseeing course review and approval processes in the schools, colleges, and campuses. In a letter to Deans and Chancellors, she stated, "each college and school (in consultation with departments, where relevant) will identify courses that meet the criteria of the requirement. We look to college and school curriculum committees to ensure that the spirit of the requirement is followed."

The revisions to the original guidelines include a restatement of bullet number six in the criteria below to clarify its meaning and the addition of guidelines for designating study abroad, one-time offerings, courses with varying syllabi depending on instructor, and transfer courses.

The Registrar's Office has assigned the designation DIV for diversity courses. Courses, when approved by the school, college or campus curriculum committee, should be sent to the Registrar' Office at: uwcr@uw.edu.

Criteria

To ensure consistency across the University, the Task Force recommends that courses fulfilling the Diversity Requirement and designated DIV:

1. Be at least three credits;
2. Have diversity, as defined in the legislation, as central and explicit in the course;
3. Have the relevant aspect(s) of diversity explicit in the course title and course description that appear in the University course catalog;
4. Have the relevant aspect(s) of diversity explicit in the learning goals and activities detailed in course syllabus;
5. Retain the central emphasis on diversity regardless of the instructor;
6. Encourage critical thinking about race, ethnicity, sex and gender, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, religion, creed, age, and/or socioeconomic status, especially in relation to power, inequality, marginality, and social movements, and communication across cultural differences.

Those developing and approving courses should refer to the language requirement for additional topics and learning objectives that might be covered:

No fewer than 3 credits of courses, approved by the appropriate school or college, which focus on the sociocultural, political, and economic diversity of human experience at local, regional, or global scales. This requirement is meant to help the student develop an understanding of the complexities of living in increasingly diverse and interconnected societies. Courses focus on cross-cultural analysis and communication; and historical and contemporary inequities such as those associated with race, ethnicity, class, sex and gender, sexual orientation, nationality, ability, religion, creed, age, or socioeconomic status. Course activities should encourage thinking critically on topics such as power, inequality, marginality, and social movements, and effective communication across cultural differences. *Faculty Code*, Chapter 114, Section 2, Subsection B.1.d.

One-Time Course Offerings

Courses meet the recommended criteria above. The recommended process for approval of one-time offerings of courses that do not have permanent DIV designation (e.g., special topics, survey courses) is:

1. Course goes through appropriate department-level approval.
2. Course goes through appropriate college approval, unless otherwise delegated to UW Curriculum Committee.
3. Course goes to UW Curriculum Committee:
 - a. Approved courses will be noted by Registrar in Time Schedule and curriculum table for effective quarter
 - b. Deadline is several weeks prior to registration, but this can apply to a student's record at any time before graduation
 - c. Review will be based on course syllabus
 - d. For courses not formally noted (in title or description) as special topics, UW (or College) Curriculum Committee may request formal title or description change (for future offerings).

Study Abroad Courses

While study abroad can provide students with unique valuable insights into a culture other than their own, it is not sufficient for the DIV designation solely to study in another country. For the designation, a study abroad course would also have to meet the content guidelines laid out above, including an explicit focus on diversity topics.

1. Direct exchange coursework will not count toward DIV requirement, unless evaluated as equivalent to an existing course with permanent DIV designation.
2. UW Faculty-led programs will go through one-time course process above, in coordination with the Office of International Programs and Exchanges.
3. Topics of study abroad courses should meet the content guidelines established in the legislation and recommended by the Task Force Guidelines. It is not sufficient to study in-country without explicit focus on diversity topics.



Independent Study

As is the case for Areas of Knowledge, independent study will generally not fulfill the DIV requirement. Exceptions will be considered through college/university graduation petition process.

Transfer Courses

In evaluating courses for the diversity requirement for transfer students, the Task Force recommends using the transfer evaluation process currently used for other general education requirements, with these guidelines:

1. Use existing course equivalency process for community colleges courses with UW equivalents (i.e., the Transfer Equivalency Guide).
2. For students transferring without an existing course equivalency from a Washington state community college, advisors will evaluate courses as they currently do with other general education requirements (e.g., Areas of Knowledge), using the criteria in these guidelines for reviewing diversity-related content.

Course Development Resources

The Center for Teaching and Learning is providing ongoing workshops and consultation this year and next to assist faculty members to develop courses for the diversity requirement. Contact theCTL@uw.edu.