Policy Recommendation

Amendment A to University Policy S14-9

Guidelines for Concentrations

Whereas: Executive Order 1071 indicates that “an option, concentration, or special emphasis (or similar subprogram) must constitute less than one half of the units required in the major program”, and

Whereas: An FAQ was created for EO1071 that clarifies some of the language in the EO, and

Whereas: University policy S14-9 stipulates that concentrations at both the undergraduate and graduate level “must have at least 30% similarity”; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the following amendment be adopted to replace Section I.A, I.B, and IV.B to bring university policy S14-9 into compliance with EO1071.

Approved: 03/18/2019

Vote: 8-0-0

Present: Thalia Anagnos, Marc d’Alarcao, Cynthia Fernandez-Rios, Susana Khavul, Cara Maffini, Winifred Schultz-Krohn, Lynne Trulio, Brandon White

Absent: Anand Ramasubramanian, Gwendolyn Mok

Workload Impact: A temporary increase in workload at department, college, and university level for curriculum committees, chairs, associate deans and Undergraduate Studies office staff as programs become compliant.

Financial Impact: None anticipated
I. Curricula Requirements for Concentrations

I. Curricula Requirements

A. Undergraduate Degrees

1. Concentrations within a degree program must have at least 30% similarity in the preparation for the major among the base major and all concentrations in the degree program.

2. Concentrations within a degree program must have at least 30% similarity in the core courses among the base major and all concentrations in the degree program.

3. Concentrations within a degree program must have at least 30% similarity in the major’s courses among the base major and all concentrations in the degree program.

4. At least 10% of the units for the degree must be a unique set of requirements for that concentration.

   1. Options, Concentrations, Special emphasis or other similar subprogram represent less than 50 percent of the major requirements within a degree program. Major requirements may include preparation for the major.

B. Graduate Degrees

1. Concentrations within a degree program must have at least 30% similarity in core coursework requirements for the master’s degree among the base major and all concentrations within the degree, not including culminating experience (project, portfolio, or 299) units.

   1. Options, Concentrations, Special emphasis or other similar subprogram represent less than 50 percent of the major requirements within a degree program.

IV. Existing Concentrations

A. The Office of Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies & Research College of Graduate Studies will evaluate existing concentrations (those approved in Spring 2014 or earlier) to determine whether they conform with the curricular requirements of Section I.
B. For existing concentrations that fail to conform with the curricular requirements of Section I, the college curriculum committee and Dean must inform the Offices of Undergraduate Studies or Graduate Studies & Research by the end of the Fall 2016 semester whether they approve of the existing concentrations being “grandfathered” in. If the college curriculum committee and Dean do not approve the concentration, it will be discontinued.

B. For existing options, concentrations, special emphasis or other similar subprogram that fail to conform with the curricular requirements of Section I, they will become compliant by the start of their next program review process.