

CURRICULUM MANUAL FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

2020

Metropolitan State University of Denver



METROPOLITAN
STATE UNIVERSITYSM
OF DENVER



Curriculum Manual for Undergraduate Studies

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1.00 Introduction

The *Curriculum Manual for Undergraduate Studies* documents the governing policies and procedures for creating, modifying, and discontinuing undergraduate programs and courses at Metropolitan State University of Denver. It supersedes the *Curriculum Guidelines, Policies and Procedures* publication, last revised May of 2020. These guidelines should not be interpreted in any way that would supersede State or Federal guidelines.

2.00 Curriculum Goals

The **mission** of Metropolitan State University of Denver states:

MSU Denver is a comprehensive, baccalaureate — and master's — degree granting urban university that offers arts and sciences, professional, and business courses and programs to a diverse student population in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Excellence in teaching and learning is MSU Denver's primary objective.

MSU Denver's mission is to provide a high quality, accessible, enriching education that prepares students for successful careers, post-graduate education, and lifelong learning in a multicultural, global, and technological society. To fulfill its mission, MSU Denver's diverse university community engages the community at large in scholarly inquiry, creative activity, and the application of knowledge.

In support of the University's mission, undergraduate curriculum reflects the following goals:

To provide an effective learning environment in which students know what is expected of them at entry and at exit; in which irrelevance, proliferation, and redundancy are minimized; in which standards are judiciously set and students are fairly evaluated; and in which students are assisted in synthesizing their total learning experience and in becoming self-motivated, lifelong independent learners; and

To provide learning opportunities that are responsive to individual needs, including personal development and career-skill development and to provide educational opportunities that meet high-priority student and community needs in ways that make the best use of available resources.

3.00 Roles and Responsibilities

Curriculum originates with faculty in academic departments, schools or colleges, and the Honors Program, hereafter referred to as academic units. In the case of interdisciplinary courses or programs, the department with primary responsibility for the course or program is considered the originating department. Administrative units must work through the appropriate academic unit(s) to submit curriculum through the approval process.

It is the responsibility of all levels to follow the curriculum policies and procedures included in this manual. Chairs of various committees have the discretion to determine if a curriculum change requires committee review. In a case when the Chair determines that the changes are only clerical in nature, the Chair will notify the committee and give them two business days to object. The Chair will ensure that all documentation is accurate and complete.

Since the Honors Program collaborates with all departments to provide faculty to teach Honors courses, a letter of collaboration from the sponsoring department providing the content expertise must be included in Honors proposals.

3.01 Department Level

3.01.01 Originator

This group or individual originates curriculum proposals and shall:

- Plan curriculum changes well in advance of deadlines;
- Submit complete and accurate documentation, including letters of acknowledgment from impacted departments and programs;
- Incorporate stipulations and suggestions made by subsequent levels of review;
- Ensure that the new course does not duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum, and to determine, with the department chair and department curriculum committee, possible conflict or impacts on other academic and administrative units;
 - The following procedures must be conducted by the originator to identify duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum
 - Run a keyword search of the catalog
 - Run a keyword search of Curriculog
 - Run a Curriculog impact report
- In the case that there is duplication or overlap, the initiating faculty must provide a justification for the redundant course when the proposal is initiated. In addition, all affected faculty and academic units offering related courses must be allowed to review the proposed course and letters of acknowledgment must be included with the curriculum proposal by the initiating faculty. Any change to a current course which is a service course to other departments, programs, and degrees must be reviewed by those departments. The initiating faculty must obtain letters of acknowledgment from those departments and include these letters in the curriculum proposal. Failure to make the appropriate contacts will delay the processing of the course through the curriculum approval process;
- Obtain detailed letters of acknowledgment from academic and administrative units affected by the change(s), including acknowledgment of the impacts and details of any compromises or agreements made;
- Respond to other academic units' letters of notification and requests for support in a timely manner;
- Proofread the proposal.

3.01.02 Departmental Curriculum Committee

The Departmental Curriculum Committee shall:

- Review the merit of the proposal to ensure that it is:
 - Complete;
 - Pedagogically sound;
 - In line with current scholarship;
 - Of benefit to students;

- Ensure that new courses do not duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum, and to determine, with the initiating faculty and department chair, possible conflict or impacts on other academic and administrative units
 - The following procedures must be conducted by the committee to identify duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum
 - Run a keyword search of the catalog
 - Run a keyword search of Curriculog
 - Run a Curriculog impact report

In the case that there is duplication or overlap, the initiating faculty with the department curriculum committee must provide a justification for the redundant course when the proposal is initiated. In addition, all affected faculty and academic units offering related courses must be allowed to review the proposed course and letters of acknowledgment must be included with the curriculum proposal by the initiating faculty. Any change to a current course which is a service course to other departments, programs, and degrees must be review by those departments. The initiating faculty must obtain letters of acknowledgment from those departments and include these letters in the curriculum proposal. Failure to make the appropriate contacts will delay the processing of the course through the curriculum approval process.

- Obtain detailed letters of acknowledgment from academic and administrative units affected by the change(s), including acknowledgment of the impacts and details of any compromises or agreements made;
- Proofread the proposal.

3.01.03 Department Chair or Designee

The Department Chair or designee shall:

- Ensure curriculum changes do not contradict statewide articulation agreements, statewide transfer policies, or inter-institutional agreements and Memoranda of Understanding;
- Evaluate the impact of the proposal on departmental resources;
- Consult with the Dean in advance if new or additional resources will be needed to implement a curriculum change (e.g., personnel, space, equipment);
- Notify other academic and administrative units (e.g., Transfer Services, Academic Advising) of proposed changes and provide a detailed list of potential impacts;
- Ensure that new courses do not duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum, and to determine, with the initiating faculty and department curriculum committee, possible conflict or impacts on other academic and administrative units
 - The following procedures must be conducted by the committee to identify duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum
 - Run a keyword search of the catalog
 - Run a keyword search of Curriculog
 - Run a Curriculog impact report
 - In the case that there is duplication or overlap, a justification for the redundant course must be included with the proposal. In addition, all

affected faculty and departments offering related courses must be allowed to review the proposed course and letters of acknowledgment must be included with the curriculum proposal by the initiating faculty. Any change to a current course which is a service course to other departments, programs, and degrees must be review by those departments. The initiating faculty must obtain letters of acknowledgment from those departments and include these letters in the curriculum proposal. Failure to make the appropriate contacts will delay the processing of the course through the curriculum approval process.

- Obtain detailed letters of acknowledgment from academic and administrative units affected by the change(s), including acknowledgment of the impacts and details of any compromises or agreements made;
- Respond to other academic units' letters of notification and requests for support in a timely manner.
- Proofread the proposal

3.01.04 Notifications and Letters of Acknowledgment

Communication is needed when a curriculum proposal initiated by a faculty member or department impacts other academic units. Such impact can be administrative or academic. Communication documentation must be included with the curriculum proposal.

Letters of acknowledgment from impacted academic units are required for all substantive and non-substantive curriculum changes. The Originator must send a notification letter to impacted department(s) and/or academic unit(s). Responses to letters of acknowledgment and notification letters must be received by the originator within 30 days. If no response is received, it will be assumed that the affected academic unit has no objections to the proposal and the process will move forward.

3.02 College/School Level or Honors Council Curriculum Committee

3.02.01 College or School Curriculum Committee

The College or School Curriculum Committee shall:

- Ensure that the proposal has academic integrity, coherence, and rigor and is worthy for inclusion in the university's curriculum;
- Ensure that new courses do not duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum, and to determine possible conflict or impacts on other academic and administrative units
 - The following procedures must be conducted by the committee to identify duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum
 - Run a keyword search of the catalog
 - Run a keyword search of Curriculog
 - Run a Curriculog impact report
- In the case that there is duplication or overlap, the committee must ensure that the originator provide a justification for the redundant course. The committee must also ensure that all affected faculty and academic units offering related courses have been allowed to review the proposed course and letters of acknowledgment

submitted and any change to a current course which is a service course to other departments, programs, and degrees be acknowledged. The committee will delay the approval of the course if the appropriate contacts have not been made and acknowledgments have not been included with the proposal.

- Ensure that possible conflicts or impacts on other academic and administrative units have been addressed and resolved, and that detailed letters of acknowledgment are included;
- Request needed revision in a clear, detailed and timely manner, and assist departments in addressing requests for revisions;
- In cases where proposals are denied, justify the decision in writing and notify all other levels;
- Submit the proposal by the posted deadlines;
- Ensure that all revisions have been completed and included in the proposal before granting College/School Curriculum Committee approval.

3.02.02 Honors Council Curriculum Committee

The Honors Council Curriculum Committee shall:

- Ensure that all HON-prefix curriculum proposals are originated and reviewed by faculty;
- Review the merit of the proposal to ensure that it is:
 - Complete
 - Pedagogically sound
 - In line with current scholarship
 - Of benefit to students;
- Ensure that the proposal has academic integrity, coherence, and rigor and is worthy for inclusion in the university's curriculum; Ensure that new courses do not duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum, and to determine possible conflict or impacts on other academic and administrative units;
 - The following procedures must be conducted by the committee to identify duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum
 - Run a keyword search of the catalog
 - Run a keyword search of Curriculog
 - Run a Curriculog impact report;
 - In the case that there is duplication or overlap, the initiating faculty with the Honors Council Curriculum Committee must provide a justification for the redundant course when the proposal is initiated. In addition, all affected faculty and academic units offering related courses must be allowed to review the proposed course and letters of acknowledgment must be included with the curriculum proposal. Any change to a current course which is a service course to other departments, programs, and degrees must be reviewed by those departments. The initiating faculty

must obtain letters of acknowledgment from those departments and include these letters in the curriculum proposal. Failure to make the appropriate contacts will delay the processing of the course through the curriculum approval process;

- Ensure that possible conflicts or impacts on other academic and administrative units have been addressed and resolved, and that detailed letters of acknowledgment are included;
- Proofread the proposal;
- Request needed revision in a clear, detailed and timely manner, and assist faculty in addressing requests for revisions;
- In cases where proposals are denied, justify the decision in writing and notify all other levels;
- Submit the proposal for review by the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee by the posted deadlines;
- Ensure that all revisions have been completed and included in the proposal before granting Honors Council Curriculum Committee approval; and
- Participate in the Program Review process every 7 years.

3.02.03 Dean or Designee or the Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies

The Dean or designee or the Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies shall:

- Evaluate how the proposal will affect the allocation of resources, including personnel, space, and equipment, and verify that adequate resources are available to support the proposal;
- Notify the Provost's Office of any requests for new program codes or course prefixes;
- Ensure that new courses do not duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum, and to determine, with initiating faculty and department, possible conflict or impacts on other academic and administrative units
 - The following procedures must be conducted by the committee to identify duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum
 - Run a keyword search of the catalog
 - Run a keyword search of Curriculog
 - Run a Curriculog impact report
 - In the case that there is duplication or overlap, a justification for the redundant course must be included with the proposal. In addition, all affected faculty and departments offering related courses must be allowed to review the proposed course and letters of acknowledgment must be included with the curriculum proposal by the initiating faculty. Any change to a current course which is a service course to other departments, programs, and degrees must be review by those departments and letters of acknowledgment from those departments must

be included in the proposal. Failure to make the appropriate contacts will delay the processing of the course through the curriculum approval process.

- Ensure that conflicts or impacts on other academic and administrative units have been addressed and resolved, and that detailed letters of acknowledgment are included;
- In cases where proposals are denied, justify the decision in writing and notify all other levels; and
- Ensure that all revisions have been completed and included in the proposal before granting approval.
- The Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies will complete this level of review for Honors Program Proposals.

3.03 University Level

3.03.01 Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee shall:

- Evaluate curriculum proposals and changes to ensure that they are academically sound and appropriate to the University's role and mission;
- Monitor curriculum proposals to identify potential duplication, overlap, conflicts or impacts on academic and administrative units not apparent at the College/School level, or that are created by new curriculum changes submitted by different Colleges/Schools;
- Ensure that new courses do not duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum, and to determine, with the curriculum committee chair, possible conflict or impacts on other academic and administrative units
 - The following procedures must be conducted by the committee to identify duplicate or overlap content with existing curriculum
 - Run a keyword search of the catalog
 - Run a keyword search of Curriculog
 - Run a Curriculog impact report
 - In the case that there is duplication or overlap, the committee must ensure that the originator provide a justification for the redundant course. The committee must also ensure that all affected faculty and academic units offering related courses have been allowed to review the proposed course and letters of acknowledgment submitted and any change to a current course which is a service course to other departments, programs, and degrees be acknowledged. The committee will delay the approval of the course if the appropriate contacts have not been made and acknowledgments have not been included with the proposal.
- Ensure that conflicts or impacts on other academic and administrative units have been addressed and resolved, and that detailed letters of acknowledgment are included;
- Review and approve changes in requirements for specialized designation, *i.e.*, General Studies, Multicultural, and Senior Experience designations;

- Request needed revision in a clear, detailed, and timely manner, and assist departments in addressing requests for revisions;
- Ensure that all revisions have been completed and included in the proposal before granting Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee approval (*i.e.*, do not grant “approval with modifications”);
- Present completed curriculum proposals to Faculty Senate and obtain the approval of the Faculty Senate President;
- Submit approved proposals to the Office of Academic Affairs by the posted deadlines;
- Return all proposals that cannot be approved to the originating department with a written statement explaining why the proposal could not be approved and notify all other levels.

3.03.02 Faculty Senate

It is the responsibility of Faculty Senate to certify that curriculum proposals and curriculum changes have received thorough review and are worthy of inclusion in the University’s undergraduate curriculum. The Faculty Senate President certifies that the Faculty Senate has approved the curriculum proposals and changes.

3.03.03 Provost’s Office

The Provost or designee shall:

- Adhere to Board of Trustees policy, state statutes and Colorado Department of Higher Education policies, and Higher Learning Commission policies concerning curriculum;
- Evaluate how the proposal will affect the allocation of resources, including personnel, space and equipment, at the University level, and ensure that adequate resources are available to support the proposal;
- Coordinate with the Office of the Registrar to set curriculum deadlines;
- Disseminate curriculum deadlines to Colleges/Schools;
- Coordinate implementation with centralized support units (*e.g.*, Registrar, Advising, Admissions, and Financial Aid);
- Assist departments/schools/colleges with implementation and questions/concerns unresolved at other levels;
- Assist curriculum review committees in locating and interpreting statewide articulation agreements, statewide transfer policies, inter-institutional agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, or other external policies and regulations that affect curriculum;
- Ensure proper documentation exists to meet internal and extra-institutional requirements;
- Prepare and submit curriculum approval requests to the Board of Trustees, Colorado Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission;
- Return all proposals that cannot be approved by the Provost, Board of Trustees, Colorado Department of Higher Education, or Higher Learning Commission to the department chair with a written statement explaining why the proposal could not be approved and notify all other levels;

- Maintain the University's electronic curriculum library;
- Edit and publish the online *University Catalog*; and
- Forward Banner Catalog information to the Office of the Registrar by the posted deadlines.

3.03.04 Registrar's Office

The Registrar or designee shall:

- Enter approved curriculum changes in Banner and class schedule;
- Maintain Banner Catalog and DegreeWorks;
- Set the Academic Calendar published in the *University Catalog*.

3.03.05 President

The President or President's designee holds final authority over all curriculum matters at the university except for those requiring approval by the Board of Trustees, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the Colorado Department of Education (teacher licensure programs only), and/or the Higher Learning Commission.

3.03.06 Curriculum Dispute Resolution

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee has the authority to resolve conflicts over impacts on other academic units that have not been resolved at the school or college level. In such cases, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over curriculum proposals and resolve such conflicts.

Members of the FSCC whose departmental affiliation is connected to the proposal(s) will recuse themselves from the dispute resolution process.

If the FSCC reaches a decision that is unanimously approved, this decision becomes binding and cannot be appealed.

If the FSCC reaches a non-unanimous decision, the decision will be brought to the Faculty Senate for a discussion and Senate vote.

3.03.07 Board of Trustees

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to review and approve:

- New degree programs;
- New academic minors;
- New certificate programs;
- New concentrations and licensures; and
- Discontinuing programs, minors, or certificates.

Board of Trustee approval must be obtained before any approval requests can be submitted to external review levels.

3.04 State Level

3.04.01 Colorado Department of Education (Teacher Preparation Programs only)

It is the responsibility of the Colorado Department of Education to review and approve all curricula associated with teacher licensure or teaching endorsements. Departments proposing licensure or endorsement programs must work directly with the Colorado Department of Education to submit review materials.

Approval requests should be submitted simultaneously to the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Higher Education to prevent delays in final approval by the Commission.

3.04.02 Colorado Department of Higher Education and Colorado Commission on Higher Education

It is the responsibility of the Colorado Department of Higher Education to review and approve new academic programs based upon the program's fit with the University's statutory role and mission. Per Commission Policy I, V the Department can update SURDS with non-substantive changes to programs. Although certificate programs are not reviewed formally, they may be reported to the Department for entry into SURDS. Requests for review and approval are submitted through the Colorado Department of Higher Education and are typically processed within 60 days. Commission approval must be obtained before requesting approval from the Higher Learning Commission. See <http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/>.

3.05 Regional Level

Higher Learning Commission

It is the responsibility of the Higher Learning Commission to assure that the University provides quality education. Accreditation certifies this assurance. Curriculum changes that require review and approval include:

- Degree or credential levels not previously offered at the University;
- New programs significantly different from existing programs;
- New programs with substantial investments of money or resources;
- Substantial increases or decreases in a program's credit hours; and
- New certificate programs.

Requests for review and approval are submitted electronically via an institutional change request and require a significant amount of information not recorded in the University's existing curriculum forms. Requests are typically processed within 60 days. HLC invoices the University for processing institutional change requests.

3.06 Curriculum Manual Review

It is the responsibility of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee to review and recommend changes to the *Manual*. Once approved by the FSCC, the new version of the *Manual* must be presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, then to the Faculty Senate, for two readings and a vote.

Each edition of the *Manual* must also be submitted to the Office of Academic and Student Affairs for review and approval.

The manual should be considered for review every three years.

4.00 Curriculum Policies and Procedures

4.01 Types of Curriculum Changes

4.01.01 Substantive Curriculum Changes – University Level

The following changes require Department, College/School or Honors Program, and Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee review:

- Create a new degree, major, minor, concentration, certificate, teacher preparation or other academic program; *
- Change a department or program name, creating a new prefix, or a department-initiated prefix change;
- Discontinue a degree, major, minor, concentration, certificate, teacher preparation or other academic program*;
- Modify a course prefix or subject code;
- Transfer ownership of a course or a program to another academic unit;
- Request a new General Studies, Multicultural, or Senior Experience designation for a new or existing course; and
- Modify any portion of a course approved for General Studies, Multicultural, or Senior Experience designation. Courses that currently have a category designation in General Studies and are up for their seven-year re-submittal for General Studies designation or are submitting early for their seven-year re-submittal have the option to fill out a General Studies Re-Designation Curriculum form that allows the course to bypass the College/School levels of review. This form only works if non-substantive changes are made to the course and the only reason for submitting is to fill out the General Studies portion of the proposal form. If this process triggers updates to Required Reading, course Specific Measurable Student Behavioral Learning Objectives, Detailed Outline, or Evaluation of Student Performance (all considered to be non-substantive changes), the proposal may still bypass the College/School levels of review. Any changes to any other part of the course triggers a full Substantive Curriculum Change—University Level review.

These changes are reviewed and approved internally by:

- Department Curriculum Committee or Honors Council Curriculum Committee;
- Department Chair or designee or Honors Program Director;
- College/School Curriculum Committee (except for Honors proposals);
- Dean or designee or Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies;
- Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee;
- Faculty Senate; and
- Provost or designee

* *New, discontinued, and substantially modified programs require internal review and may require approval by the Board of Trustees and external review and approval by CDE/CCHE/HLC, as applicable, at the State and Regional levels. See Section 3: Roles and Responsibilities.*

4.01.02 Substantive Curriculum Changes – College/School Level

The following changes require Department and College/School or Honors Council Curriculum Committee review. Please note that in addition to the below steps, all Honors Program proposals will require Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee review and reporting.

- Revise a major, minor, concentration, certificate, teacher preparation or other academic program, including program requirements and program electives (e.g., change in hours required, disciplines required, and/or list of courses);
- Create a new course without special designation, including converting an omnibus course to a regular course, or individual variable topic course;
- Designate a course as a repeatable course;
- Modify the number of credit hours or attempts for a course designated as repeatable;
- Modify course number or level;
- Modify course title;
- Modify course credit hours;
- Modify course description;
- Modify course prerequisites, co-requisites or registration restrictions; and
- Add a Service Learning component to a new or existing course.

These changes are reviewed and approved by:

- Department Curriculum Committee or Honors Council Curriculum Committee;
- Department Chair or designee or Honors Program Director;
- College/School Curriculum Committee (except for Honors proposals);
- Dean or designee or Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies;
- For all Honors proposals, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee; and
- Provost or designee.

4.01.03 Non-substantive Curriculum Changes – Department Level

The following changes require Department Curriculum Committee or Honors Council Curriculum Committee review. These changes are *published in the University Catalog and must be submitted to the Provost's Office by the catalog deadline published in the Academic Affairs Procedural Calendar*. Please note that in addition to the below steps, all Honors Program proposals will require Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee review and reporting.

- Add or remove a course cross-listing;
- Archive (temporarily remove) or delete (permanently remove) a course from the curriculum;
 - A course cannot be archived or deleted until it is removed from all locations in the catalog. Departments requesting an archive or deletion of a course should

ensure that it has been removed from all program and course listings in which it appears. This may require coordination with other departments to submit program or course modification proposals. A request to archive or delete a course without complete supporting proposals to remove the course from other programs and courses will be denied until all required proposals are submitted.

- Reactivate a course from archived status.

These changes are reviewed and approved by:

- Department Curriculum Committee or Honors Council Curriculum Committee;
- Department Chair or designee or Honors Program Director;
- Dean or designee or Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies;
- For all Honors proposals, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee; and
- Provost or designee

The following changes require Department Curriculum Committee or Honors Council Curriculum Committee review. Please note that in addition to the below steps, all Honors Program proposals will require Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee review and reporting.

- Add or modify an omnibus, independent study, or individual, variable-topic course;
- Add or modify a 30-character, Banner course title;
- Add or modify course instructional activity or schedule type;
- Add or modify a course grade mode;
- Banner enforce existing prerequisites, co-requisites, and registration restrictions;
- Remove banner-enforced prerequisites, co-requisites, or registration restrictions;
- Modify the distribution of credit hours for a course;
- Modify course contact hours;
- Modify student behavioral learning objectives;
- Modify assessment criteria; and
- Modify course content or outline.

These changes are reviewed and approved by:

- Department Curriculum Committee or Honors Council Curriculum Committee
- Department Chair or designee or Honors Program Director;
- Dean or designee or Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies; and
- For all Honors proposals, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

4.02 Program and Course Documentation

The online *University Catalog* management system serves as the official documentation of all University programs and courses. It is the basis for the software used to build class schedules, degree audit systems, student transcripts, and many other University tracking and reporting requirements used internally and externally. It is critical that departments ensure that programs and courses are accurate and up-to-date.

4.03 Course Credit Faculty Contact and Student Work Hours

To maintain regional accreditation, federal financial aid funding, and state funding, all courses offered at MSU Denver must comply with the federal definition of a credit hour and state reporting guidelines.

Federal Definition of a Credit Hour

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than: (1) one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or (2) at least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other activities as established by an institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading toward to the award of credit hours. 34CFR 600.2 (11/1/2010)

4.04 Special Types of Courses

4.04.01 Cross-listed Courses

Cross-listed courses are “parent” courses listed under two or more course prefixes in the *Catalog* and allow departments to offer courses pertinent to more than one academic program in an efficient manner. Cross-listed courses are also footnoted in the class schedule. Students receive course credit only under the course prefix for which they have enrolled. Students may not receive duplicate credit under other associated prefixes nor can they apply courses cross-listed with their major to satisfy General Studies requirements.

Cross-listed courses:

- May be offered as a single section or multiple sections;
- May consist of a combination of regular, omnibus or variable topics courses;
- Require a Course Cross-listing Agreement Request form signed by all departments cross-listing a specific course;
- Must carry the same course title, course description, course level and number of credit hours across all prefixes;
- Require departments to collaborate on course scheduling;
- Require notification to other impacted departments and a new cross-listing agreement for any modifications to the course; and
- Require notification to other departments before initiating a course archive or deletion.

4.04.02 Independent Study Courses

Independent study courses provide students the opportunity to pursue in-depth study of a topic of special interest. Independent studies:

- Require the submission of an Independent Study Course proposal;

- May not duplicate a regular course unless the regular course is required for the student's degree program and was cancelled or is not offered during a given semester;
- Are typically reserved for junior- or senior-level students;
- Require the supervising instructor to receive Institutional Review Board approval for independent studies involving human subject research before the student is allowed to begin the course;
- May not be listed in the Catalog as a degree requirement.

Independent Study Courses offered multiple times should be considered for a conversion as a regular course.

Department chairs are responsible for assuring that the instructor is qualified to supervise an independent study and that the student has adequate preparation to complete an independent study successfully.

Departments offering independent studies on a regular basis may wish to create a regular course to accommodate student needs. The Dean's or Provost's Office can assist departments in exploring this option.

4.04.03 Internship Courses

Supervised work-oriented instruction* involving the implementation of classroom or laboratory experiences coordinated by** a faculty member.

- Internship credit hours may range from one to fifteen (1-15) credit hours per course.

* **Work-oriented instruction** includes projects, duties, and activities that would be similar to those needed or used in an employment setting related to the student's program of study. The work should be structured and supervised by a professional in the field with the experience and background to provide support and feedback to the student.

** **Coordinated by** generally means the faculty member defines the learning objectives and academic assignments but may not be physically present with the student.

For more detailed information about the qualities of an internship, please see the Internship Program in the Applied Learning Center.

4.04.04 Omnibus Courses

Omnibus courses are temporary courses that are not listed in the Catalog. They can be used to pilot test a course, present a special topic, or provide a unique, experiential-learning opportunity.

Omnibus courses:

- Require submission of an Omnibus Course proposal;
- Conform to credit hour distributions appropriate to the schedule type;
- Use a specified range of course numbers: 190_, 290_, 390_, 490_ and include an alpha character in the course number, typically assigned by the Registrar;

- May be offered a maximum of three (3) times;
- May be converted to a regular course through the substantive curriculum change process;
- Do not qualify for any special designations, i.e., General Studies, Multicultural, Senior Experience, Service Learning; and
- May not be listed in the Catalog as a program requirement.

4.04.05 Practicum Courses

Practicum courses consist of work-oriented instruction involving the implementation of classroom or laboratory experience under the direct supervision* of a faculty member.

- Practicum or clinical practicum credit hours may range from one to nine (1-9) credit hours per course.

* **Direct Supervision** generally means the faculty member is physically present with the student, or within an immediate distance, such as on the same floor, and available to respond to the student's needs.

4.04.06 Study Abroad Courses

Study abroad courses consist of instructional activities conducted in and involving travel to another country, as guided by faculty. Study abroad courses must meet federal and state requirements regarding credit and contact hours for lecture- and field-based courses, or some combination thereof. Please contact the Office of International Studies for detailed policies and procedures.

Curriculum offered for study abroad must have passed all normal levels of curriculum review prior to being included in a study abroad proposal and submitted to the University Study Abroad Committee. A study abroad proposal must contain approved syllabi for courses that have been signed by the Department Chair and Dean.

Departments may assign an instructional method in class schedule to offer courses as study abroad formats only after the Study Abroad Proposal has been approved by the University Study Abroad Committee.

4.04.07 Variable Topics Courses

- Variable topics courses allow courses of varying titles under an “umbrella” course/theme.
- The umbrella course syllabus must specify whether students may take multiple variable topics courses under an umbrella theme (i.e. repeatable courses, and state the minimum and maximum number of credit hours allowed).
- The umbrella course description must be broad enough to cover all topics taught under it.
- All specific variable topics courses must have unique course descriptions that relate clearly to the umbrella theme.
- Student learning objectives must align across the umbrella course and its related variable topics courses.
- Only the umbrella course description appears in the *University Catalog*; individual variable topics course descriptions appear in the class schedule.

- Variable topics courses offered on a regular basis may be converted to regular courses.

5.00 Courses with Special Designation

5.01 General Studies Courses

A baccalaureate degree includes a broad-based education that prepares students for focused study in an academic major.

5.01.01 General Studies Mission and Goals

The General Studies program provides the foundation for the Bachelor's degree. Students develop thinking, reasoning, and communication skills while discovering new ideas and expanding their views. The coursework is designed to create the opportunity for **learning** across different disciplines and builds **experiences** for students as they **grow** into lifelong learners.

5.01.02 Course Categories, Student Learning Objectives

The General Studies program is structured around the following three goals for student learning:

- Develop intellectual and practical skills:
- Explore essential knowledge, perspectives, and methods in Arts and Humanities, History, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Natural and Physical Sciences:
- Understand the global interconnectedness of diverse individuals, communities and societies.

Each goal is supported by a set of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that are addressed by the courses in one or more of eight different categories.

Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credit hours)

Courses in Social and Behavioral Science study the behavior and actions of individuals, groups, and/or institutions using scientific methods and approaches. Social and Behavioral Science also develops a student's ability to examine and influence those behaviors and actions between and among larger social, economic, political, and/or geographic contexts.

1. Describe fundamental concepts in the social and behavioral sciences.
2. Examine how individuals, groups, communities, and social institutions relate or interact with each other and/or the natural world using theories and methods in the social and behavioral sciences.
3. Engage with social and behavioral science tools, approaches, and skills to explore complex human, social, political, cultural, and/or global interactions and issues.

Arts and Humanities (6 credit hours)

In Arts and Humanities courses students interpret, analyze, and create texts and other artistic works to deepen their understanding of the various contexts that shape the

human experience and explore fundamental questions of identity, value, diversity, and meaning.

1. Describe how the context (historical, racial, ethnic, material, technological, religious, intellectual, cultural, gender, etc.) influences the creation, content, or interpretation of a text, performance, work of art, etc.
2. Critically engage with a text, performance, work of art, etc. by applying social/political, epistemic, aesthetic, pragmatic, moral/ethical, or other discipline-appropriate standards.
3. Implement course content or skills through the creation of an original project (essay, argument, narrative, reflection, oral presentation, performance, work of art, etc.).

Natural and Physical Sciences (6 credit hours)

The Natural and Physical Sciences involve discovering knowledge in natural or physical sciences, applying scientific thinking and reasoning, and critically thinking about the use of scientific information.

1. Explain the foundational knowledge of a particular field of natural or physical science
2. Apply principles and techniques of scientific thinking.
3. Evaluate the credibility of scientific information and interpret the impact of its use or misuse in society.

Historical (3 credit hours)

Historical thinking contextualizes the present by using a wide range of sources and methods to understand how people experienced the past.

1. Demonstrate the ability to locate sources when information is needed, and to evaluate the authenticity, validity, and reliability of resources applied to a specific purpose;
2. Communicate in writing with an awareness of audience, by using language conventions appropriate to the occasion and task;
3. Demonstrate historical knowledge of the United States, the world, or one of the major regions of the world;
4. Demonstrate, using historical sources, how context and contingency influence change over time; and
5. Develop an effective historical interpretation and marshal primary and/or secondary source evidence to support it.

Quantitative Literacy (3 credit hours)

Competency in quantitative literacy represents a student's ability to use quantifiable information and mathematical analysis to make connections and draw conclusions. The main focus of each Quantitative Literacy course is the use of mathematical techniques and analysis, with problems from a broad spectrum of real-life and abstract settings requiring translation to and from mathematical forms.

1. Apply mathematical techniques to the analysis of quantitative problems;

2. Communicate the mathematical process and results in text, graphics, and symbols.

Oral Communication (3 credit hours)

Students learn to perform effective and ethical oral communication that is appropriate to diverse audiences, settings, media, and goals

1. Develop a clear, purposeful message with coherent and effective content.
2. Incorporate various and credible supporting material (e.g. examples, statistics, analogies, illustrations, and quotations).
3. Practice effective listening strategies that enhance understanding, evaluation and engagement.
4. Adapt to varied audiences, their beliefs, values, and attitudes, as well as to features of contexts, situations, and interactions.
5. Perform skillful non-verbal communication (e.g. vocal variety, pace and physical behavior) appropriate to audience and context.
6. Perform skillful verbal communication (e.g. clear, vivid, and/or compelling language) appropriate to audience and context.

Written Communication (6 credit hours)

Written communication is the development and expression of ideas in writing across many genres and styles. It includes understanding how writers may shape texts for their specific rhetorical situation. It includes multimodal composing and the creation of texts that combine words, images, and/or data. Written communication abilities develop through interactive and iterative experiences across the curriculum.

1. Exhibit a thorough understanding of audience, purpose, genre, and context that is responsive to the situation.
2. Create and develop ideas within the context of the situation and the assigned task(s).
3. Apply formal and informal conventions of writing, including organization, content, presentation, formatting, and stylistic choices, in particular forms and/or fields.
4. Critically read, evaluate, apply, and synthesize evidence and/or sources in support of a claim.
5. Use an appropriate documentation system.
6. Demonstrate proficiency with conventions, including spellings, grammar, mechanics, and word choice appropriate to the writing task.

Global Diversity (3 credit hours)

Global Diversity refers to a student's ability to critically analyze and engage complex, interconnected global systems (such as natural, physical, social, cultural, economic, or political) and their implications for individuals, groups, communities, or cultures. These courses will introduce students to various concepts toward valuing diversity and the importance of inclusivity. Students should seek to understand how their actions affect both local and global communities. Courses in this category must contain a majority of material from one or more regions or countries outside the U.S.

These courses must also be designated in one of the Arts & Humanities, History, Natural & Physical Sciences, or Social & Behavioral Sciences course categories. These courses will count in both categories.

1. Describe the implications of global interconnections, including their impact on culture, societies, the environment, or the individual.
2. Analyze connections between worldviews, experiences, and power structures of differing cultures in historical or contemporary contexts.

5.01.03 Review and Approval of Policies and Procedures

Faculty in any department, school or college may submit a General Studies course in any category. Each course, including cross-listed courses, may only be submitted for one course category, with the exception of the Global Diversity category as addressed in Section 5.01.02 above. The application must designate the appropriate course category.

- All Written Communication, Oral Communication and Quantitative Literacy courses must be lower division with the exception of Written Communication courses that align with the CO3 category in the Colorado gtPathways General Education Curriculum Guidelines. Guidelines may be found by visiting the Colorado Department of Higher Education website. As of 3/7/18, the list of approved GT-CO3 (Advanced Writing Courses) could be found at: <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/gtPathways/Curriculum/Courses.aspx?cat=GT-CO3>
- No omnibus or variable topics courses shall be approved for General Studies.
- Self-paced courses are not permissible for Written Communication, Oral Communication, or Quantitative Literacy categories.

Students may be required by their major department to take specified General Studies courses, but overprescribing General Studies requirements disadvantages transfer students and risks violating state statute. Departments are encouraged to footnote prerequisite or ancillary courses that students can apply toward General Studies requirements rather than prescribe specific General Studies courses.

Category Notations

Written Communication	WC12
Quantitative Literacy	QL12
Oral Communication.....	OC12
Arts and Humanities	AH12
Historical.....	HI12
Natural and Physical Sciences	NS12
Social and Behavioral Sciences	SB20
Global Diversity.....	GD12

For a new or existing course to receive a designation as General Studies, it must be reviewed and approved as a substantive curriculum proposal at University level. Submissions must include the General Studies materials. Courses that currently have a category designation in General Studies and are up for their seven-year re-submittal for General Studies designation or are submitting early for their seven- year re-submittal

have the option to fill out a General Studies Re-Designation Curriculog form that allows the course to bypass the College/School levels of review. This form only works if non-substantive changes are made to the course and the only reason for submitting is to fill out the General Studies portion of the proposal form. If this process triggers updates to Required Reading, course Specific Measurable Student Behavioral Learning Objectives, Detailed Outline, or Evaluation of Student Performance (all considered to be non-substantive changes), the proposal may still bypass the College/School levels of review. Any changes to any other part of the course triggers a full Substantive Curriculum Change—University Level review.

The General Studies Committee will review courses for new or existing General Studies designation simultaneously with the FSCC. The General Studies Committee will do one of the following:

- recommend conferral of a particular General Studies designation;
- recommend denial of the General Studies designation; or
- recommend changes to the course syllabus and/or request additional documentation in the General Studies proposal form before making a final recommendation to the FSCC.
- If the General Studies Committee denies a General Studies designation, the G.S. committee chair will provide written documentation to the FSCC specifying the rationale for the denial.

After receiving the General Studies Committee recommendation, the FSCC will:

- approve the course for inclusion in the curriculum but not accept it for General Studies designation;
- approve the course for inclusion in the University's curriculum and approve it for the General Studies program;
- deny a new course for inclusion in the curriculum;
- deny modifications to an existing course.

If a course is not approved for General Studies designation, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee will return the proposal to the submitting department chair with the rationale for the decision.

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee shall have the following powers and responsibilities concerning General Studies in consultation with the General Studies Committee:

- to determine, subject to the approval of the Faculty Senate, criteria for the acceptability of the courses proposed for General Studies designation;
- to review the curriculum guidelines for General Studies and their implementation, and participate in setting standards where necessary regarding transfer students and special situations;
- to decide whether certain published degree programs shall be exempted from any General Studies requirements. This provision shall not be interpreted as

granting the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee any powers now exercised by the Board of Academic Standards Exceptions.

5.01.04 Assessment

Each General Studies category will be assessed on a regular cycle. For information on G.S. assessment see: msudenver.edu/generalstudies/forfaculty/assessment/

5.01.05 General Studies Program Requirement Amendment Process

The amendment process for the General Studies Program Requirements shall follow the same process as substantive program changes.

5.01.06 Transferability of General Education [General Studies] Courses

Colorado state statutes require all state-funded institutions to facilitate the transfer of general education courses across all two-year and four-year Colorado institutions.

These statutes must be taken into account when proposing any curriculum changes.

- Departments and review committees need to have a working knowledge of: state policy regarding general education and degree completion
<http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/Current/i-part1.pdf>
- Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements pertaining to MSU Denver and the University's institutional Transfer Guides (see <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/Students.html>)
- Other institutions' general education courses that are approved for statewide transfer

The Office of Academic Affairs can assist departments and committees in locating and interpreting state statutes and policies governing general education course transfer.

5.01.07 State Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (gtPathways) Options

Departments may submit General Studies-designated courses to the Colorado Department of Higher Education for review and approval as state Guaranteed Transfer pathways (gtPathways).

Information on the submission, review and approval process is located at <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/>. The office of Academic and Student Affairs can assist departments in locating and interpreting gtPathways submission and review information.

5.02 Multicultural Courses

5.02.01 Multicultural Course Goals, Student Learning Outcomes

Multicultural course required content and course materials are designed to increase students' awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity in the United States. Multicultural education coursework examines the interactions of values, beliefs, traditions, identities, and contributions of one or more of the following four groups of color in the United States: African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Native

American, which may include the characteristics of gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability within these groups.

At the conclusion of a multicultural course, students will be able to:

- Define factors that lead to the formation and continuation of one or more of the four groups of color in United States society;
- Present the customs, behavioral patterns, and identities of one or more of the four groups of color in United States society;
- Delineate the effects of bias, prejudices, and discrimination on one or more of the four groups of color in United States society;
- Describe the cultural similarities, commonalities, and differences within or among one or more of the four groups of color in United States society; and
- Communicate how the acceptance and inclusion of all groups of color enriches lives and increases the creativity and performance of everyone in United States society.

5.02.02 Review and Approval Policies and Procedures

The minimum number of credit hours per course is three (3).

Measurable student behavioral learning objectives should be stated so that the criteria listed under Goals of Multicultural Education are met.

For a new or existing course to receive the designation as Multicultural, it must be reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee as a substantive curriculum proposal (see Section 4.01).

This is true whether or not the existing course is being modified in conjunction with the request for Multicultural designation, since the conferral of the designation requires a change in the *Catalog* description for the course.

The following procedures apply to the submission of the proposal.

The following documentation must be submitted:

- The proposal for requesting Multicultural designation;
- Program modifications proposal, if applicable (*i.e.*, if the program description changes in any way as a consequence of the new designation); and

The enrollment level per section should be appropriate for meeting the goals of the course.

The Multicultural Curriculum Review Committee (MCRC) will review courses for new or existing Multicultural designation simultaneously with the FSCC.

The Multicultural Curriculum Review Committee may:

- recommend conferral of the Multicultural designation;
- deny conferral of the Multicultural designation; and

- recommend changes to the course syllabus or request additional documentation in the Multicultural proposal form before making a final recommendation to the FSCC.

The Multicultural Curriculum Review Committee's recommendation for a course should be communicated to the FSCC for consideration and appropriate action. If the MCRC denies a Multicultural designation, the committee chair will provide written documentation to the FSCC specifying the rationale for the denial.

The FSCC may:

- approve the course for inclusion in the University's curriculum but not approve it for Multicultural designation;
- approve the course for inclusion in the University's curriculum and approve it for Multicultural designation.

If a course is denied for Multicultural designation, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee will return the proposal to the submitting department with the rationale for the decision.

Modifications to an existing course with the Multicultural designation must be approved through the substantive curriculum process.

The amendment process for the Multicultural designation requirement shall follow the same process as substantive program changes.

5.02.03 Transferability of Multicultural Courses

The Multicultural Curriculum Review Committee will evaluate transfer courses that do not have a University equivalent to determine if the course meets MSU Denver criteria for the Multicultural course requirement.

5.03 Senior Experience Courses

5.03.01 Senior Experience Course Goals, Student Learning Outcomes

The Senior Experience course provides a culmination of the undergraduate experience, allowing students the opportunity to use the knowledge gained from their undergraduate studies to synthesize, using critical analysis and logical thinking. As such, the Senior Experience course is a "capstone" course, which requires students to integrate their knowledge and skills.

The Senior Experience course must provide the students the opportunity to:

- synthesize learning through critical analysis and logical thinking;
- apply theoretical constructs to practical applications;
- critique philosophical tenets and current practices;
- integrate and refine oral and/or written communication skills; and
- verify their expertise.

5.03.02 Review and Approval Policies and Procedures

- The course is at least three (3) credit hours of credit at the 4000 level;

- The course may be either broadly or narrowly conceived and may focus on the specific purpose of a particular major or minor, or may encompass learning from several areas;
- The Senior Experience requirement may be satisfied in a variety of offerings, *i.e.*, a departmental seminar, an interdisciplinary seminar, a senior thesis or independent project, independent study, an internship or practicum, a portfolio, or a public performance
- The course must be taken at MSU Denver;
- The course must include “senior standing” or permission of Department as a Catalog prerequisite and senior standing as a class restriction, in addition to other prerequisites designated by the department; and
- The Senior Experience requirement may NOT be met by an omnibus course,¹ or a variable topics course.

For a new or existing course to receive the Senior Experience designation, it must be reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee (FSCC) as a substantive curriculum proposal (see Section 4.01).

This is true whether or not the existing course is being modified in conjunction with the request for Senior Experience designation, since the conferral of the designation requires a change in the Catalog description for the course.

The FSCC may:

- approve conferral of the Senior Experience designation;
- not approve conferral of the Senior Experience designation; or
- recommend changes to the course syllabus or request additional documentation in the Senior Experience proposal form before making a final recommendation to the Faculty Senate.

Modifications to an existing course with Senior Experience designation must be approved through the substantive curriculum process before being sent to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee. The FSCC may:

- approve the course modifications, and approve continuation of the existing Senior Experience designation; or
- approve the course modifications, but not approve continuation of the existing Senior Experience designation, if the changes to the course substantively alter the required Senior Experience criteria.

If a course is not approved for Senior Experience designation, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee will return the proposal to the submitting department with the rationale for the decision.

¹ Exceptions are allowed for the Individualized Degree Program (IDP). These courses must be approved by the Director of the IDP on a case-by-case basis.

The amendment process for the Senior Experience designation requirement shall follow the same process as substantive program changes.

5.03.03 Transferability of Senior Experience Courses

Senior Experience courses must be taken at MSU Denver. Transfer courses may not be used to fulfill the Senior Experience requirement.

5.04 Service Learning Courses

5.04.01 Service Learning Course Goals, Student Learning Outcomes

At MSU Denver, service learning is defined as a form of experiential learning in which students combine classroom experience with community-based service that:

- Meets an identified community need;
- Provides a structured opportunity for students to reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content;
- Balances student goals and community goals through collaborative development of course content and service opportunity;
- Engages students in structured preparation for, participation in, and reflection on service experience.

Service learning is a pedagogical method that combines classroom instruction with coordinated, integrated, and structured volunteer service. This teaching method is adaptable across all disciplinary and school divides and is appropriate at any educational level.

At the conclusion of a Service Learning (SL) section of a course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to engage in personal and critical reflection concerning the service experience;
- Relate the service experience to core concepts and learning outcomes of the course as described in the course documentation;
- Assess and analyze the service learning experience in the context of fulfilling the identified community need, community engagement or promoting the public good; and
- Interpret and communicate the learning experience to a wider forum and disseminate information to audiences beyond the classroom.

5.04.02 Review and Approval Policies and Procedures

Any academic unit may propose a course for an SL designation at its own discretion. When the designation is granted, it can then be applied to any or all sections of the course as the academic unit desires. Although the designation is granted to the course, not all sections of that course must use the designation.

Measurable student learning outcomes must be stated so that the criteria listed under Student Behavioral Learning Objectives of Service Learning are met. The course

documentation must identify SBLOs that apply only to the SL designated sections with an SL in parentheses at the end of the SBLO.

To qualify as an SL eligible course, service learning must comprise at least 33% of the graded material in the SL sections, as well as receive consideration in course discussions, lectures, and activities. (Sections that do not use the service learning designation do not need to do any grading based on service learning). The course documentation must identify the methods of student evaluation that apply only to the SL designated sections with an SL in parentheses.

Service Learning sections are designated with the SL designation in the Banner system. The academic unit is responsible for identifying which sections of multi-section course offerings are to be designated.

The proposing department will work with the Applied Learning Center (ALC) in developing the Service Learning (SL) proposal to ensure its completeness.

ALC will house the Service Learning Curriculum Review Committee (SLCRC) to approve the Service Learning designation. The committee will consist of two faculty/staff members from ALC and will have one representative assigned from FSCC or one of the FSCC subcommittees.

Variations to variable topics courses going through the non-substantive curriculum review process still need to work with ALC and gain approval from the SL curriculum review committee.

The following must be submitted to the SLCRC in addition to other curriculum documentation:

- Program Modification, if applicable (i.e., if the program description changes in any way as a consequence of the new designation);
- Current syllabus (for an existing course); and
- For General Studies courses, documents for re-approval of General Studies designation.
- The enrollment level per section should be appropriate for meeting the goals of the course. The recommended maximum class size must be stated in the proposal.

After the SLCRC receives a course proposal, the SLCRC may:

- Recommend conferral of the SL designation;
- Not approve conferral of the SL designation; and
- Recommend changes to the course syllabus or request additional documentation in the SL proposal form before making a final recommendation to the FSCC.

The SLCRC's recommendation for a course will be communicated to all other curricular levels for consideration and appropriate action. If the SLCRC denies a Service Learning designation, the committee chair will provide written documentation to the department specifying the rationale for the denial.

Since course approvals fall under the purview of the school, college, or Graduate Council curriculum review committees, these committees may:

- Approve the course for inclusion in the University's curriculum but not approve it for SL designation;
- Approve the course for inclusion in the University's curriculum and approve it for SL designation.

Courses approved for SL designation will be reported out at Faculty Senate during the normal FSCC Senate Report so that Service Learning designations are announced to the university-wide faculty body.

6.00 New Program Policies and Procedures

(see separate procedure for forming new School/College)

6.01 Degree Programs: Development, Review and Approval

New degree programs are a significant undertaking that should be entered into with foresight and planning to minimize negative consequences for the department, and for other University programs and offices, while maximizing the opportunities for the new program's success.

Departments are encouraged to allow sufficient time to:

- conduct meaningful planning;
- complete multiple levels of Phase One Proposal review and approval;
- develop a complete and accurate curriculum proposal;
- complete multiple levels of internal and, if required, external review and approval; and
- meet curriculum deadlines.

New degree programs cannot be entered into the *Catalog* unless all requirements have been met and all approvals have been obtained by the substantive curriculum change deadline.

6.01.01 Pre-Planning, Development Considerations

Departments are responsible for completing all of the steps outlined in Section 3.01 before embarking on a new program curriculum proposal.

In addition, departments should:

- Ensure that the proposed program is compatible with the university's role and mission;
- Meet with the Associate Vice President of Curriculum and Policy Development or designee to discuss curriculum design within the context of accreditation criteria, state statutes and institutional policy considerations;
- Conduct a thorough market analysis for the new program using a range of sources beyond current student and department advisory board input to gauge external demand for the program, workforce trends, enrollment trends, and competition from other institutions;

- Work with the Dean to identify and evaluate all resource needs from program launch through maturity, and to discuss the probability that those needs can be reasonably met.

6.01.02 Letters of Acknowledgment

Communication is needed when a curriculum proposal issued by a department may overlap with another course or program offered by another department. Such potential impact can be administrative or academic. Letters of acknowledgment are required for all potential sources of overlap.

Originators are responsible for ensuring that current, complete, and accurate copies of all letters of acknowledgment are obtained and are available for submission with the Phase One Proposal.

6.01.03 Phase One Proposal Review and Approval

Phase One Proposals are reviewed and approved at the following levels:

- Department Chair/Director
- College/School Dean
- Academic Affairs Senior Leadership
- Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Board of Trustees

Each level of review is responsible for ensuring that the proposal is complete as well as academically and fiscally sound.

Each level of review reserves the right to deny support for the Phase One Proposal, based on thoughtful review and sound rationale.

Departments and Deans are required to present Phase One Proposals in person to Academic Affairs Senior Leadership and the Board of Trustees.

Departments are responsible for addressing all questions and concerns raised during the Phase One Proposal review before embarking on curriculum proposal development.

6.01.04 Internal and External Review and Approvals

Section 3.00 details the roles and responsibilities of internal and external review bodies.

Colorado Department of Higher Education policies are located at <http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/>

Higher Learning Commission policies are located at

<https://www.ncahlc.org/Monitoring/institutional-change.html>

6.02 Concentrations within an Existing Degree Program

New concentrations within an existing degree program are processed through all internal review and approval bodies including the Board of Trustees (see Section 3.00). Departments are strongly encouraged

to address the same information in the substantive curriculum proposal as is required for new degree programs to facilitate thorough and thoughtful internal review (see Section 6.01.04).

6.03 Academic Minors

New academic minors are processed through all internal review and approval bodies including the Board of Trustees (see Section 3.00). Departments are strongly encouraged to address the same information in the substantive curriculum proposal as is required for new degree programs to facilitate thorough and thoughtful internal review (see Section 6.01.04).

6.04 Certificate Programs: Definitions and Policies

All new certificate programs are processed through all levels of internal and external review and approval (see Section 3.00).

While Phase One Proposals are not required for certificate programs, the department must provide all of the information required for new degree programs in order to facilitate external review and approval (see Section 6.01.04).

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The US Department of Education defines virtually all certificate programs as “Gainful Employment” programs, and requires institutions to track enrollment in certificate programs, identify occupational fields related to the certificate, and report time-to-completion, completion rates, program cost, student loan debt, and students’ debt-to-earnings data. Institutions must post this information on a disclaimer page, program web sites, and in promotional materials (see <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/fregisters/FR103114Final.html>).

Departments must work closely with Enrollment Services and the Office of Financial Aid when developing certificate programs to ensure that the University can meet implement the certificate program properly. For students in a standalone certificate program to receive financial aid, the certificate must be 24 credits or more and must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education prior to students enrolling.

The National Center for Education Statistics and the state define certificates in terms of their relation to degree programs:

- Embedded certificates are designed from courses contained in a larger degree program such the certificate is completed by meeting certain degree requirements;
- Stackable certificates are a series of related certificates that can be “stacked” to complete a larger degree program; and
- Standalone certificates are designed to be completed independently of a degree program.

The National Center for Education Statistics and the state also define certificate levels:

- Level 01: Undergraduate certificate 29 credit hours or less (less than one year);
- Level 02: Undergraduate certificate 30 to 59 credit hours (at least one but less than two years);
- Level 03: Undergraduate 60 to 120 credit hours (two to four years);
- Level 04: Post-baccalaureate certificate equivalent to 18 semester hours beyond the bachelor’s degree but does not meet the requirements of a master’s degree. Post-

baccalaureate certificates comprised solely of undergraduate courses (1000- to 4000-level courses are considered Level 01 undergraduate certificates).

Current University policies allow the following types of undergraduate certificates (subject to change as state and federal compliance warrants):

- Certificates of 15 to 29 credit hours requiring less than one academic year to complete; and
- Post-baccalaureate certificates comprised of 18 or more credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree, designed for students who have already completed a bachelor's degree.

Additional University requirements for all certificate programs are:

- All prerequisite courses must be listed clearly;
- Prerequisite courses may be part of the certificate itself or required as ancillary courses;
- At least one-third of the overall credit hours must be upper-division courses;
- No more than 40% of the certificate may be comprised of:
 - Transfer courses
 - Workshop or advanced workshop courses (course numbers 2888 or 4888)
 - Cooperative education courses (course numbers 2980 or 3980)
 - Field experience or internship courses (course numbers 2990 or 4990)
 - Senior-level topics or seminar courses (course numbers 4900);
- Only one course substitution is permitted;
- Credit hours may not be waived from certificate programs; and
- A minimum grade of "C" is required in all courses in the certificate.

7.00 Discontinuing an Academic Program

Requests to discontinue programs are substantive curriculum changes processed at all internal levels of review and approval and include the Board of Trustees. Notification is submitted to the state and HLC. Both the state and HLC require departments to specify a "teach out" plan to assist currently-declared students in completing the program. It is critical that proposals to discontinue a program are accompanied by concise letters of acknowledgment from all programs and offices affected directly or indirectly.

8.00 Instructional Activities and Methods

(see also Section 4.04 and supplemental curriculum information)

8.01 Instructional Activity refers to all teaching and teaching-related activities, such as: curriculum development; preparing for and conducting class meetings, including laboratory, studio, clinical, practicum, or shop practice; developing instructional materials; preparing and grading assignments and examinations; conferring with students about coursework; non-credit and community services instructional offerings; engaging in other teaching-related activities; academic advising and career counseling of students; recruiting students; evaluating student transcripts and life experience equivalencies; assisting students in planning their programs of study; advising student groups; serving as a mentor to individual students; other related student life and student support activities; and other "hours arranged" such as credit

by examinations and independent study. Non-instructional activity includes service and professional development.

Schedule Type: The Banner code identifies the instructional activity, such as lecture, lab, recitation, or seminar. Schedule type may impact class scheduling, rooming, and compliance reporting, and must accurately reflect the instructional activity and credit hour distribution of the course.

Instructional Activity/Schedule Type Definitions

Field Instruction/Experience: Instructional activities focused on supplementing and/or extending content formally presented in a lecture or seminar course in a field-based setting, as guided by faculty.

Independent Study: Student project or other required activity with minimal involvement association with faculty direction.

Internship: Work-oriented instruction involving the implementation of classroom or laboratory experiences coordinated by* a faculty member.

** Coordinated by generally means the faculty member defines the order or priorities of activities for the student, but is not physically present with the student.*

Laboratory, Academic or Clinical: Instructional activities focused on student participation, experimentation, observation, or practice, as guided by faculty.

Lecture: Formal presentation of content primarily delivered by one-way communication by the faculty.

Lecture/Field Experience, Seminar/Field Experience: Instructional activities focused on presentation or exploration of content either faculty-to-student and/or student-to-student, combined with instructional activities focused on supplementing and/or extending content formally presented in a lecture or seminar course in a field-based setting, as guided by faculty.

Lecture/Lab: Instructional activities focused on presentation or exploration of content either faculty-to-student and/or student-to-student, combined with instructional activities focused on student participation, experimentation, observation, or practice, as guided by faculty.

Lecture/Lab/Practicum: Instructional activities focused on presentation or exploration of content either faculty-to-student and/or student-to-student, combined with both instructional activities focused on student participation, experimentation, observation, or practice, as guided by faculty, as well as work-oriented instruction involving the implementation of classroom or laboratory experience under the direct supervision* of a faculty member.

** Direct Supervision generally means the faculty member is physically present with the student, or within an immediate distance, such as on the same floor, and available to respond to the student's needs.*

Lecture/Practicum: Instructional activities focused on presentation or exploration of content either faculty-to-student and/or student-to-student, combined with work-oriented instruction involving the implementation of classroom or laboratory experience under the direct supervision* of a faculty member.

** Direct Supervision generally means the faculty member is physically present with the student, or within an immediate distance, such as on the same floor, and available to respond to the student's needs.*

Physical Education and Recreation Activity Courses: Physical education and/or instructional activities focused on the development of skill proficiencies, as guided by faculty.

Practicum, Clinical Practicum: Work-oriented instruction involving the implementation of classroom or laboratory experience under the direct supervision* of a faculty member.

** Direct Supervision generally means the faculty member is physically present with the student, or within an immediate distance, such as on the same floor, and available to respond to the student's needs.*

Private Instruction: Instructional activities focused on presentation or exploration of content in a one-to-one relationship, faculty to student.

Readings: Specified readings that accompany another course or that may stand independently.

Recitation or Discussion: Instructional activities focused on the reinforcement and/or enhancement of content formally presented in a lecture or seminar course.

Seminar: Two-way student and faculty communication of course materials.

Student Teaching: Faculty supervised learning experience in which the student applies knowledge gained in the teacher education program to a classroom setting.

Studio – Art: Instructional and/or lab activities focused on painting, sculpture, and other artistic endeavors, as guided by faculty.

Studio – Music: Instructional and/or lab activities focused on band, ensembles, music labs, and other musical endeavors, as guided by faculty.

8.02 Instructional Method - A course's instructional method, such as face-to-face, online, or correspondence, identifies the way in which students interact with course content. Instructional Method may impact class scheduling, rooming, and compliance reporting. MSU Denver is approved to offer courses in the following formats. New instructional methods may require approval of the Higher Learning Commission.

*NOTE: Instructional methods are assigned by academic departments during class scheduling and do not require curriculum review. **Correspondence Course (Federal definition):** A course provided by an institution under which the institution provides instructional materials, by mail or electronic transmission, including examinations on the materials, to students who are separated from the instructor. Interaction between the instructor and student is limited, is not regular and substantive, and is primarily initiated by the student. Correspondence courses are typically self-paced. If a course is part correspondence and part residential training, the [US Secretary of Education] considers the course to be a correspondence course. A correspondence course is not distance education.*

- **Face-to-Face:** Instructional activity conducted live in a classroom or field setting. Face-to-face courses often use the university learning management system for communication, grading, or as a content library.
- **Hybrid:** Instructional activity that balances the use of online technology and MSU Denver campus-based requirements for instruction or other core elements of the learning experience.

- **Online:** Instructional activity that eliminates location as a factor in the relationship between the student and MSU Denver. All activity is completed online with no obligation to visit an MSU Denver campus.
- **Self-Paced, Self-Paced Online:** instructional activities in which the student is allowed to proceed through course materials at an individualized pace. All elements of the online instructional activity definition apply to Self-Paced Online.

NOTE: Some self-paced courses are offered outside the standard term, or semester. To receive financial aid for a self-paced course, students must register for the course by the course census date and complete the course within the standard term or part-of-term. If a student receives financial aid for other coursework, the student's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) may be impacted if the student does not complete the self-paced course within the standard term or part-of-term.

- **Study Abroad:** Instructional activities conducted in and involving travel to another country, as guided by faculty.

9.00 Grade Mode Definition

- Grade modes determine how course grades appear on student records and transcripts.
- Grade mode must be entered on the course documentation.
- Only one grade mode can be assigned to a schedule type.
- Although Banner catalog contains several grade modes, most are restricted to specific types of courses and/or programs.
- The most common grade mode is "L" for letter grade.
- See Appendix for current grade modes and corresponding schedule types.

10.00 Curriculum Deadlines Rationale

The *University Catalog* is published annually and governs academic programs and policies from fall semester through the following summer semester. A catalog addendum is published in summer as needed and cannot include curricular changes that would negatively impact a student. Students' degree requirements are linked to a specific catalog year. Student financial aid disbursements are also linked to the annual *Catalog*. Therefore, it is imperative to have deadlines to ensure the timely publication and release of the *Catalog*.

Substantive curriculum changes that require external (state and/or HLC) review and approval must have received Board of Trustees approval at or before the December Board of Trustees meeting to ensure sufficient time for external review. Curriculum proposals that have not received all required levels of approval by the final deadline cannot be implemented until the next *Catalog* cycle.

Final curriculum deadlines are established to facilitate *Catalog* publication before the mid-March release of fall schedule, and the early-April start of fall registration. The period between the curriculum deadline and *Catalog* publication allows sufficient time to compose, edit, proof and publish the online *Catalog*, and to build programs, degree audits and schedules in Banner *Catalog* and DegreeWorks.