

REAL FAQs

Marketing Programs & Communication

1.	How will new students learn about programs and the REAL areas they cover?	More information, tools and academic activities will be provided pre-Quest, during Quest and during the fall semester. Information about programs and REAL areas will be published in the catalog and will be available via an interactive website.
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Course Designation

2.	How many courses can my department designate?	Unlimited. See the next question.
3.	Should I pursue REAL designations for all/most of my courses?	You are not limited to the number of courses you can designate; however, there may be little use to pursuing REAL designations for too many courses. Ask yourself: (1) consider which courses are strong introductions to your disciplines, (2) which courses are you using to claim REAL areas, (3) Which courses are other departments using to claim REAL areas, (4) which courses will students likely use for the REAL General Studies minors (have a few options for students)? Remember, only nine credits are needed (3 credits at the 300-level) to fulfill a REAL area. Consider limiting the number of electives you are designating.
4.	If a course receives a REAL designation, do I need to put the learning goals and outcomes for the associated REAL area into that course's syllabus?	It is good practice to document that a course satisfies a REAL designation within the official course syllabus. However, the REAL learning goals and outcomes do not need to be exactly replicated in the official syllabus. Instead, there will be a place for you to connect current course outcomes to the REAL learning goals and outcomes in the course designation proposal.
5.	If a course receives a REAL designation, do I need to assess the learning goals and outcomes associated with the REAL area within that course?	No. You may if you wish (if that is part of your assessment plan), but it is not required if you are assessing the REAL area elsewhere in your program.
6.	If a course receives a Cornerstone or Foundation designation, do we have to assess it?	Yes. Foundational Writing and Foundational Math courses must be assessed annually. Cornerstone courses, Writing Intensive and Personal and Professional Development must also be assessed annually.

7.	If other departments are using one of my courses to claim a REAL area, do I need conduct the assessment for them?	No. It is that department's responsibility to conduct the assessment.
8.	If I use a course from another department, can I ask that department for assessment artifacts?	You can ask, but a department is not obligated to provide you with any artifacts. It is the department's responsibility to conduct its own assessment.
9.	How do I know what courses from other departments will receive which designations (i.e. I'm using a course from another department and want to know its designation).	Departments will have the opportunity to state their intentions for course designations (by Dec. 6 th). These results will be viewable in real-time. Until then, you can call and ask the department about its designation intentions.
10.	Can sections of courses be designated differently? What happens if some sections would qualify as writing intensive but others would not?	Generally, the answer is no. The course is designated, not the section. Keeping track on section-level designations would make the audit confusing for students and overly complex.
11.	My course fulfills one, but not both of the learning outcomes for a REAL area. Can I still designate the course?	Courses fulfilling areas must fulfill the learning goal and both learning outcomes in order to be designated.

Program Alignment

12.	How many REAL areas can a major claim?	The maximum is 3. A major can cover 2 areas using only the department prefixed courses. To cover a third area, the major must use at least 1 prefix from outside the department/school.
13.	How many REAL areas can a minor/certificate claim?	The maximum is 2. Minors/certificates requiring fewer than 18 credits can only cover 1 REAL area; minors/certificates with 18 or more credits may cover 2 REAL areas.
14.	How many total credits must a minor or certificate require to participate in the REAL program?	The minimum is 15 credits.
15.	Can I use courses from other departments to claim a REAL area?	Yes. But you must do the assessment yourself. If you are adding a new requirement to your program for this purpose, you will have to get permission from that department so they will be aware of the demands on their courses.
16.	Where must I assess the REAL area learning goals/outcomes?	You can assess the learning goals/outcomes associated with a claimed REAL area at the 'program level.' Some options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess within one of the courses you used to claim the REAL area. • Assess within some other required course in your program.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess using some external tool (like an ePortfolio requirement).
17.	Can I use general requirements to claim a REAL area (e.g. 'Take 2 R-designated courses from anywhere on campus' or 'Take 2 A-designated courses from POSC/SOCY/ECON/POLS/HIST')?	Yes. If you are including courses from particular departments, you need to get permission from those departments, just like with the program alignment. You will also need to document the list of courses for program coverage.
18.	Can I incorporate flexibility and student choice into REAL area designation (e.g., if a student takes certain 'E' elective courses in my department then their degree covers the 'E' area, but if they instead take certain 'A' elective courses in my department then their degree covers the 'A' area)?	Yes, but each pathway through REAL by each program must be documented. Your program either covers an area or it does not. The REAL program keeps track of program coverage, not individual student coverage.
19.	What would trigger a SCHEV review of my program?	Contact the SCHEV Liaison, George Santopietro, Associate Provost of Academic Operations, (gsantop@radford.edu) with any questions.

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