

Motion for Simplifying the REAL Curriculum

Modify the REAL General Education Model as follows: instead of requiring that all REAL areas be covered by majors and minors, require that any area(s) not covered by a student's first major be covered by a second major, by a minor, or by three courses from the menu of courses designated the uncovered area(s) (one of which must be at the 300 level; at least one designated GE for R, E, or A; at least two prefixes must be used) from outside the department housing the student's first major.

Modify the REAL General Education Model as follows: delete the REAL Studies Minors.

These modifications will be in place for the 25-26 Catalog. Alongside these modifications will come an immediate moratorium on approving new or changing course designations and program alignments to last until the 27-28 Catalog. This moratorium will not apply to any changes necessary for the purposes of accreditation.

Rationale: This idea maintains a strength of REAL: leveraging the strength of our programs to achieve fundamental learning outcomes. At the same time, it responds to many shortcomings of REAL. Student choice and student satisfaction are curtailed by the current requirement. The complexity of finding a menu of minors will be eased for students who choose a menu of courses instead, which helps to meet a two-year Academic Affairs goal. For many students, the number of credit hours needed to complete the REAL Curriculum will be reduced by six, which also helps to meet a two-year Academic Affairs goal. Because students who choose to satisfy REAL area requirements outside their major can now choose three courses from the menu of designated courses in the area, the REAL Studies minors (which require choosing five courses) will no longer be needed and should be eliminated both to simplify the curriculum and to ease assessment. The moratorium will simplify the process of implementing this change and will simplify the curriculum by introducing a period of stability.

Logistics:

In consultation with OIEQI, the general education task force has determined that the current assessment model would be sufficient for assessing this model.

The current transfer table will need to be reevaluated to align with this revision. The general education task force recommends working with the Transfer Team to determine necessary revisions to the table.