

November 11, 2020

The group went over what we had discussed and agreed on previously and worked to further refine how we are thinking of the charge of creating an “educational requirement for all Cornell students”.

**Agreement 1:** We will frame and arrive at a clear learning goals and outcomes statement for the educational requirement, but will do so in an iterative manner as each proposition gets further clarified.

**Agreement 2:** We will pay attention to issues of

1. timing and roll out (must be fast, feedback from Senate mid-December) and
2. resources (to encourage movement forwards and not stymie the requirement)

**Agreement 3:** the educational requirement will include all Cornell students, regardless of field of study, and whether they are here as graduate professional studies students for 9 months -3 years, or as undergraduates and doctoral students who are here for extended periods of time. There is also agreement that the form and content of coursework for each of these groups will vary.

Discussions continue around the following issues:

1. **We agree that**
  1. *educational requirement will vary, but only based on Agreement 1 above*
  2. *educational requirement will be 100% focused on the content WG-S deems critical.*
2. **We continue to debate**
  1. The **CONTENT of the educational requirement**; the following issues are emerging as critical:
    1. *education in the historical basis and construction of institutions of racism, inequality, injustice and colonialism in the places that we inhabit/occupy/are visiting. An important issue here is whether an education in history and context should focus solely on the place that Cornell’s Ithaca campus is situated (Ithaca, NY, U.S.A) or whether it should be broader through the ways in which faculty construct syllabi and coursework*
    2. *education in the historical construction of our disciplines/professions and ongoing manners of exclusion both in the worlds we will inhabit beyond Cornell and in the academy*
    3. *active learning to resist, change and move beyond the conditions of racism, colonialism, inequity and injustice that we have inherited*
  2. The **FORM of the educational requirement**; the following issues are emerging as critical
    1. *A single course for all undergraduates designed by Cornell faculty whose expertise is in the content area. Issues of concern include meeting (2.a.ii) and (2.a.iii) above, especially when it comes to STEM disciplines.*
    2. *A single course for all undergraduates in a major designed by departmental faculty (singly or in groups) who will commit to designing a course that fits the statement of learning goals. This could also be expanded into the model for*

graduate students. Issues of concern raised include faculty teaching loads, timing, and preparation to teach (2.a.1) above.

3. *Menu of courses* that could 'fit the statement of learning goals'. Issues of concern include (a) worries about dilution of content, and being clear about minimum, adequate and necessary benchmarks for each course that is listed in the menu (b) how menu will be maintained and kept live (c) whether menu can include courses by associated programs like IDP and Engaged Cornell.
4. A 'D&I' or 'Justice and Equity' *Minor* with required courses that would include the educational requirement+ introductory courses in Africana, AIISP, AASP, and LSP. Issues of concern. Will this face resistance as it will be seen as competition with existing minors in these areas as well as with the existing minor in "Inequality" that has grown exponentially at the expense (it is considered) of minors in ethnic studies.

3. **Governance** of the educational requirement.

1. Courses typically come under departments/units that govern programs/majors and colleges. Should there be a body or a committee in the new "Center" that has oversight on the 'educational requirement for all Cornell students'? How would such a Committee be constituted and under whose leadership (the Center, the Faculty Senate, or the Colleges)
2. Should courses meeting the guidelines of the educational requirement be designated as such (with a SJ&E or D&I for example)?
3. Should courses meeting the guidelines of the educational requirement be designated as such on the University Transcript?