



## SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE FLAGS

- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes  No   
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

**If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions:**

**If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.**

How many students do you expect to be impacted? Over a two-year period, from September 2014-August 2016, we approved a total of 228 petitions for flag credit that would not be eligible for substitution petitions under the revised policy. This is a relatively small percentage of the approved petitions received during that period. The flags are designed to be completed in residence, and students in all degree plans have the opportunity to complete flags in conjunction with courses that satisfy major, core, and elective requirements, so the overall impact should be minimal.

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with: The Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee, which approved this change, includes representatives from the largest colleges and schools with undergraduate degrees.

UGSAC membership in 2017-18 includes:

Mark Bernstein – Moody College of Communication  
Andrew Dell'Antonio – College of Fine Arts  
Richard Flores – College of Liberal Arts  
David Vanden Bout – College of Natural Sciences  
David Platt – McCombs School of Business  
Gerald Speitel – Cockrell School of Engineering  
Elizabeth Cullingford – College of Liberal Arts  
Martha Hilley – College of Fine Arts  
Jennifer Maynard – Cockrell School of Engineering  
Jennifer Moon – College of Natural Sciences  
Paula Murray – McCombs School of Business  
Sharon Strover – Moody College of Communication  
Robert (Bill) Williams – College of Pharmacy

Date of communication: August 30, 2017

Response: UGSAC unanimously approved of the changes in this proposal.

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: Yes. This proposal includes changes to the flags petition policies.

**If yes, Undergraduate Studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:**

Person communicated with: n/a – this proposal originated in Undergraduate Studies

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? No  
Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL:  
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc>  
If yes, explain:

## 5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

## SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE FLAGS

Department approval date: 8/30/17 Approved by whom: Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee  
College approval date: 8/30/17 Approved by whom: Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee  
Dean approval date: 8/30/17 Approved by whom: Brent Iverson, Dean, UGS

### PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:<sup>4</sup>

#### Additional Basic Education Requirements

##### Skills and Experience Flags

The Skills and Experience flags are a unique and innovative feature of all undergraduate degrees at The University of Texas at Austin. The flags are specifically designed to provide the enriched education that all students will need to become effective future leaders in our society and a constantly evolving workplace. To this end, in the process of fulfilling the core curriculum, major, and other degree requirements, all undergraduate students are required to complete courses with content in the following six flag areas: In the process of fulfilling the core curriculum and other degree requirements, all undergraduates are expected to complete courses with content in the following six areas:

- Writing: three flagged courses beyond Rhetoric and Writing 306 or its equivalent
- Quantitative reasoning: one flagged course
- Global cultures: one flagged course
- Cultural diversity in the United States: one flagged course
- Ethics and leadership: one flagged course
- Independent inquiry: one flagged course

Courses used to fulfill flag requirements must be taken for a letter grade unless the flagged course is only offered on a pass/fail basis; the minimum acceptable grade is *D-*. Individual degree plans may not require a higher minimum standard for flagged courses in general. However, individual degree plans may set a higher minimum grade standard for flagged courses that are also required in the major field or are required as prerequisites for courses in the major.

Courses with sufficient content in these areas will be identified in the *Course Schedule* by the appropriate flags. The School of Undergraduate Studies monitors flagged courses to ensure that they meet the guidelines set by the general faculty. When a course is approved to carry more than one flag, enrolled students may use all of those flags to fulfill degree requirements, except that the global cultures flag and the cultural diversity in the United States flag must be earned in separate courses.

While all undergraduate degree programs require the flags, some are still in the process of implementing the third ~~Writing~~ flag requirement. Students who choose to graduate according to the requirements of the ~~2016–2018~~ 2018–2020 Undergraduate Catalog should consult their advisers and the degree requirements listed in the schools/colleges sections of this catalog to determine which of the flag requirements apply to them and how to integrate them into their degree plans.

Because flags are a unique feature of a University of Texas at Austin degree, they are designed to be completed in residence. Students may submit substitution petitions through the School of Undergraduate Studies for the following types of courses to satisfy flag requirements once they have been accepted for University of Texas at Austin credit:

- courses taken for a letter grade as part of a study abroad program;
- courses taken for a letter grade through Texas Extended Campus;
- in-residence courses taken for a letter grade; and
- transfer courses from other colleges or universities taken for a letter grade prior to the student's first semester enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin.

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The following types of courses or credit are rarely eligible for flag substitution:

- dual credit courses, or courses taken prior to high school graduation;
- credit-by-exam courses, including courses for which Advanced Placement, A levels, or International Baccalaureate credit is earned;
- any course of less than three weeks (fewer than 21 days);
- transfer courses from other colleges or universities taken during or after the student's first semester enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin (with the exception of study abroad courses).

In all cases, flag substitution petitions will be evaluated to determine whether the course taken satisfies the flag criteria and interpretation at a level of rigor expected for courses at The University of Texas at Austin.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/degree-program-changes> for detailed explanations.

<sup>2</sup> Submit required Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board forms to the provost's office ([lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu)); downloadable from URL <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/thehb-forms>

<sup>3</sup> **EXCLUSIVE:** of *exclusive* application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is *seven calendar days*); **GENERAL:** of *general* interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*); *major* legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*).

<sup>4</sup> The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/undergraduate/>

**Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use track changes, and do not include hyperlinks in the catalog copy.** Submit form electronically to the Office of the General Faculty and Faculty Council at [fc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fc@austin.utexas.edu). For questions on completing this section, please contact Victoria Cervantes, [fc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fc@austin.utexas.edu), 471-5934 or Brenda Schumann, [brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu), 475-7654.