

Motions to Revise General Education Tier 1 and 2 Requirements

1. FIRST MOTION: Simplification of the Gen Ed Tier 1 and 2 requirements

BACKGROUND

The number of seminars required in Tiers 1 and 2 currently depends on a student's composition course placement. Students who place into a basic writing course take four Tier 1 and six Tier 2 courses, while students who place into college-level composition courses take one Tier 1 course and nine Tier 2 courses. This scenario has resulted in some unnecessary confusion. The proposed plan simplifies matters for students, advisors, faculty, chairs, deans, and others involved in planning Gen Ed course offerings.

We recommend a simplification of the Tier 1 and 2 requirements. This will lead to a more balanced program. The vast majority of students who enter as freshmen will benefit from taking four courses in the first Tier and six courses in the second Tier. Under the present system, few students qualify for the other scenario, yet the program is complicated for everyone.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the following language replace the current requirements for the number of Tier 1 and Tier 2 courses taken in the new General Education program:

- Students complete four Tier 1 seminars (12 credits) and six Tier 2 seminars (18 credits) with at least two seminars in each of the four Modes of Inquiry; they take a total of ten seminars (30 credits) across Tiers 1 and 2.
- Intermodal seminars count toward two Modes of Inquiry; however, they do not reduce the total number of seminars required in Tiers 1 and 2.
- Students also complete one Tier 3 Capstone (3 credits) in the final semester of Gen Ed.

2. SECOND MOTION: Exception for students with non-developmental English placement

BACKGROUND

The revised requirements should not prevent our best-prepared students from taking additional Tier 2 courses if, in consultation with their advisors, they determine that doing so makes sense. Therefore, students who place into college-level (non-developmental) composition will still be permitted to take as few as one Tier 1 course and as many as nine Tier 2 courses.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the following exception take effect for students who place into non-developmental English composition:

- Students who place into ENGL 101 without ENGL 095 are permitted to take as few as one Tier 1 seminar and as many as nine tier 2 seminars to reach a total of ten Tier 1 and 2 seminars (30 credits); they are urged to consult with an advisor before deciding on this course of action.

3. THIRD MOTION: An exception for transfer students with 30 or more transfer credits

BACKGROUND

Transfer students who enter with more than 30 credits often transfer in with many Tier 1 courses and no Tier 2 courses. As a result, they don't currently receive Gen Ed credit for all of their completed courses. Allowing these students to take fewer Tier 2 courses means more of their transfer credits will count toward Gen Ed requirements. This makes NJCU more attractive to transfer students with 30-plus credits.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the following exception take effect for transfer students with 30 or more transfer credits:

- Transfer students who enter NJCU with 30 or more credits may receive Gen Ed credit for up to six Tier 1 seminars transferred in and may take as few as four Tier 2 seminars to reach the required total of ten Tier 1 and 2 seminars (30 credits).