

Fitchburg State University All University Committee

2020-2021 Proposal Form

Date: _____

I. Proposal Title: _____ 2021 LA&S General Education Block Transfer Pathways _____

II. Sponsor/Contact Person: _____ Alberto Cardelle _____

III. Sponsor's Department, Phone No., e-mail: _____ Provost, X3295, acardelle@fitchburg _____

IV. Collaborating Parties: _____ Registrar, Admissions, Institutional Research and LA&S Program Area _____

V. Proposal Summary (If applicable, highlight changes from previous policy or practice.): *

Delay the full implementation of the New LA&S General Education curriculum (the curriculum being implemented for first time students in the fall of 2021) until the fall of 2022 and develop LA&S General Education block transfer pathways for transfer students, that will facilitate students moving from community colleges and other institutions in higher education to Fitchburg State.

VI. Rationale for the Proposal:

The needs of transfer students have changed overtime. With declining enrollments in community colleges a greater percentage of our transfer applicants are coming to us without a completed degree and with a significant number of credits sometimes across multiple programs and institutions. These students are put into precarious positions that allow them to be enticed by private for-profit institutions. This in part has led to a decline of transfer students coming to Fitchburg State. This proposal creates an efficient and effective pathway for transfer students to access our quality and affordable education. This proposal helps to reverse these trends because --

- Transfer admissions needs to be able to easily explain to prospective students how their general education courses will transfer in.
- Transfer students have a lot of choice in the colleges and the courses left to complete after transfer is often a deciding factor.
- This plan is an equitable way to limit the number of transfer students graduating with over 120 credits.
- With students coming from so many colleges with countless possible courses it is necessary to have a holistic approach to the transfer of general education requirements.
- Currently, students with complex transcripts need to go through the lengthy petition process in order to request LA&S General Education requirements.
- Transparency in how general education requirements transfer will make students more comfortable with choosing Fitchburg State University

This proposal is very much a proposal that will contribute to systemic equity.

VII. Proposal (Attach a complete proposal): *

See attached

VIII. If this proposal requires the publication of new information in the Catalog, provide the text you propose for how it should appear in the Catalog. If this proposal will require a change to existing material in the Catalog, or a change to a four-year plan of study, show the current wording, and how you propose the new wording appear.

See attached

* All proposals that involve curriculum change require review by the Department Curriculum and the Department Chair.

Vote: _____ / _____ / _____ (For / Against / Abstain)

Name of Chair, Department Curriculum Committee _____

Name of Chair, Department _____

IX. Submitted to Appropriate Dean(s):

Name of Dean(s): _____ All Deans _____

Proposal

The New LA&S General Education will apply to transfer students beginning in the Fall of 2022. Transfer students enrolling at Fitchburg State during the 2021-2022 academic year will fall under the 2020-2021 university catalog.

LA&S General Education Requirements for Transfer Students	
Transfer Credits	Requirements
1-29 credits	<p>Student still considered a first-year student and will take all LA&S General Education courses. Any courses taken previously will continue to transfer to FSU. Students with a First-Year Experience (FYE) course (of any number credits) will satisfy the requirement and receive credits matching the FYE course transferred in. Students who transfer in FYE will be required to complete the 0-credit, self-paced “The Transfer Student Experience” course described below.</p>
30-59	<p>Students will be required to enroll in a 0-credit, self-paced course title “The Transfer Student Experience.” Students will be required to complete it during their first semester at the university, and they will receive a S/U grade (students will be enrolled in the course by academic advisors, and the registrar will receive notification when students have completed the course).</p> <p>Students must complete all other FOUNDATION courses, although the registrar will determine what courses the student may transfer to satisfy FOUNDATION courses in during the admission process.</p> <p>Students must complete 18 credits of the CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING requirements.</p> <p>Students must complete 9 credits of the INTEGRATING AND APPLYING requirements.</p> <p>Up to 9 credits of MAJ courses may be used to satisfy both of these requirements.</p>
60 or more credits	<p>Students will NOT be required to enroll in “The Transfer Student Experience.”</p> <p>Students must complete all other FOUNDATION courses, although the registrar will determine what courses the student may transfer to satisfy FOUNDATION courses in during the admission process.</p> <p>Students must complete 9 credits of the CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING requirements</p>

	Students must complete 3 credits of the INTEGRATING AND APPLYING requirements (which must be an Integrative High Impact Practice). Up to 9 credits of MAJ courses may be used to satisfy both of these requirements.
Students who have completed an Associate's degree, or who transfer 90 or more credits	If students transfer in at least 34 credits of general education-quality courses (general courses that satisfy the breadth of the LA&S General Education), their LA&S General Education requirements are considered fulfilled, similar to the current Mass-Transfer Pathway agreements.
Students who have completed a Bachelor-level degree or their transcript indicates that they have completed the institution's general education program requirements	LA&S General Education requirements are considered fulfilled.

Catalog Text

If you transfer in 1-29 credits, the registrar during the admission process will evaluate and award credit and determine completed LA&S General Education requirements based on previously taken courses, including the FYE requirement. Students who transfer in FYE course will take the 0-credit, self-paced “The Transfer Student Experience” course that helps students familiarize themselves with the institution and facilitates the student’s success.

If you transfer in 30-59 credits, the registrar during the admission process will evaluate and award credit and determine completed LA&S General Education FOUNDATION requirements based on previously-taken courses. Students will enroll in a 0-credit, self-paced course title “The Transfer Student Experience” course that helps students familiarize themselves to the institution and facilitates the student’s success. Students must complete 18 credits of the CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING requirements. Students must complete 9 credits of the INTEGRATING AND APPLYING requirements (of these credits, 9 credits may be courses that have been approved to meet LA&S General Education requirements within the major).

If you transfer in 60 or more credits, the registrar during the admission process will evaluate and award credit and determine completed LA&S General Education FOUNDATION requirements based on previously-taken courses. Students must complete 9 credits of the CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING requirements. Students must complete 3 credits of the INTEGRATING AND APPLYING requirements (of these credits, 9 credits may be courses that have been approved to meet LA&S General Education requirements within the major).

If you have completed an Associate's degree or if you transfer in 90 or more credits and have at least 34 credits of general education-type courses (general courses that satisfy the breadth of the LA&S General Education) on your transcripts, your LA&S General Education requirements will be considered fulfilled.

If you have completed a Bachelor level degree, your LA&S General Education requirements will be considered fulfilled.

If you have transcript evidence of having completed the general education block at another four-year institution, your LA&S General Education requirements will be considered fulfilled.