



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

March 13, 2009

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2008-2009

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Law – No representative

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Public and International Affairs - Dr. Anthony M. Bertelli

Public Health – Dr. Phaedra S. Corso

Social Work - Dr. Patricia M. Reeves

Veterinary Medicine - Dr. K. Paige Carmichael

Graduate School - Dr. Malcolm R. Adams

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ms. Jamie Beggerly

Graduate Student Representative – Ms. Amrita Veliyath

Dear Colleagues:

The attached request to eliminate the use of Intended Majors will be an agenda item for the March 20, 2009, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

David E. Shipley, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Professor Jere W. Morehead

Intended Majors

Background

Dr. Karen Holbrook initiated the intended major status based on a model at the University of Florida where students commonly complete their first two years at a two-year school before transferring to their four-year program. The thought was that students would be better prepared for their major if they completed the core. An Intended Majors Task Force was formed in November 2000 that created the current policy of students having intended majors (I-major) and being placed in the major by their advisor after completing specific requirements (usually Area A-E). The goal was to create a unified system by which students declare and change majors and to provide more accurate data about which majors students are entering. Incoming students have the status of an intended major until they have completed the entrance requirements of a given major. The student's advisor must switch their status in IMS from intended to fully in the major.

The intended major status has not worked out as planned and there have been a number of issues arise such as:

- 1) Students with an intended major have the false impression they are in a major when they are not.
- 2) Students are not automatically switched from the intended major status. There have been widespread issues of students having problems at graduation time when they have not been switched from the intended major status.
3. For the professional programs that have differential tuition, the differential tuition cannot be charged for intended majors leading to a loss of revenue for those programs.
4. In the OIR database, total enrollment figures for majors can be difficult to ascertain since intended majors are not counted in the major list leading to some majors being listed as under enrolled when they are not.

Proposal:

Eliminate intended major codes for all majors with the exception of majors that are high-demand. Schools and Colleges will be able to request the use of the intended major code for high-demand majors.