



University Council

March 15, 2019

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2018-2019

John Maerz, Chair

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Ex-Officio – Interim Provost Libby V. Morris

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ali Elyaman

Graduate Student Representative – Chasity Tompkins

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Student Government Association to revise Academic Affairs Policy Statement No. 13, Syllabus, will be an agenda item for the March 22, 2019, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting. This proposal was approved by the Educational Affairs Committee on February 11, 2019.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Interim Provost Libby V. Morris
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

**Amending Academic Affairs Policy Statement No. 13, Syllabus -
Section 3, Master Syllabi, to Include a Mental Health Statement**

<https://curriculumsystems.uga.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus/>

Rationale:

(1) Anxiety and stress levels are at an all-time high on college campuses across the country and the University of Georgia is no different. Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) offers services from individual and couples counseling to crisis intervention in the name of supporting our students in their time of need. University students are allotted twelve sessions of individual therapy, should an initial screening of a student deem it necessary.

(2) The Anxiety and Depression Association of America says that over 40% of American College students list anxiety as their number one presenting concern. <https://adaa.org/finding-help/helping-others/college-students/facts>. According to a 2014 Red & Black article, only 6.9% of UGA students took advantage of services offered by CAPS, which is significantly lower than the half of college students that report feeling “overwhelmed by anxiety” according to the same article. There is a lack of awareness on campus about the resources that students have available to them, which results in students who need help not seeking it out.

(3) In partnership with the Student Health Advisory Committee, the Student Government Association drafted a resolution which encourages the adoption of a mental health statement on the master syllabi. The language was adopted by the Student Government Association, as written by the Student Health Advisory Committee which alerts students to several of the resources available to them as students at the University of Georgia.

(4) In consultation with the office of Student Care and Outreach (SCO), the language was further refined in an effort to better meet the goals of the proposal.

At the February 11, 2019, meeting of the Educational Affairs Committee, the attached additional component to Academic Affairs Policy No. 13, Syllabus, Section 3, Master Syllabi, was unanimously recommended. Additional revisions to this policy were approved at the March 22, 2019, meeting of the University Curriculum Committee.

Current Policy:

Elements of a master syllabus include:

- a. Course title and number as they appear on the course application.
- b. Course description as it appears on the course application.
- c. Prerequisites, co-requisites, and cross-listings for the course.
- d. Course objectives or expected learning outcomes for students of the course.
- e. Topical outline for the course.
- f. Reference to the University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy and a statement as to what behavior unique to the course could be academically dishonest.

The syllabus must include this statement:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

- g. The syllabus must include this statement:

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Proposed Addition:

- h. The syllabus must include these statements:

Students are encouraged to seek help from existing campus and community resources.

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please contact Counseling and Psychiatric Services at the University Health Center, 24/7, 365 days a year, at 706-542-2273 or 706-542-2200 (after-hours via UGAPD).
- If you would like tools to manage stress, anxiety, relationships, etc., visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of free workshops/classes/coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators in the University Health Center.