



The University of Georgia

Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans

FROM: James E. Fletcher
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: January 14, 1998

SUBJECT: Implementing the Cultural Diversity Requirement

The University Council Curriculum Committee has asked that I outline steps the Committee is taking to implement the University Council resolution of June 5, 1997 which establishes a Cultural Diversity Requirement. (The full text of the University Council resolution is enclosed for your convenience).

The resolution requires "all undergraduate students to study cultural diversity within a domestic or global context before graduation." The *expected outcome* of the requirement is: "The cultural diversity requirement should enable students to develop their understanding of *issues of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and class*, not only within the cultures they are studying, but also as applied to their own cultures."

Student participation in developing the requirement is mandated: "Both the curricular and extra-curricular options [of the Cultural Diversity Requirement] will be developed or revisited by each school or college in consultation with students from that particular school or college."

Student learning outcomes for Cultural Diversity must be developed, because the Cultural Diversity Requirement applies to all undergraduates. It becomes part of the General Education program of the University and subject to General Education Assessment.

Preliminary Steps

For an orderly implementation the University Council Curriculum Committee requires the following information by February 15, 1998 from schools and colleges enrolling undergraduates:

- The measures by which each school or college will *assure student participation* in developing or revisiting the Cultural Diversity Requirement.
- The *student learning outcomes* which the school or college recommends the University adopt in assessment of the Cultural Diversity Requirement.

Based upon recommendations for student learning outcomes, the University Council Curriculum Committee will adopt a common set of student learning outcomes in Cultural Diversity for general education assessment.

Subsequent Steps

At its March 1998 meeting the University Council Curriculum Committee will adopt a common set of student learning outcomes to guide the Schools and Colleges in developing or revisiting their curricular and extra-curricular options for the Cultural Diversity Requirement.

In April 1998 the Schools and Colleges will be asked to provide options which satisfy the Cultural Diversity Requirement, and the Committee will review and publish a comprehensive list of the requirements.

Enclosure -- Cultural Diversity Resolution Adopted by the University Council
Copy: Dr. Prokasy

Enclosure

Cultural Diversity Resolution as adopted by the University of Georgia University Council, June 5, 1997

Cultural Diversity Requirement

In order to further enrich the educational experience of the University of Georgia and to ensure that our graduates acquire the understanding and respect for cultural differences necessary for an enlightened citizenry, all undergraduate students will be required to study cultural diversity within a domestic or global context before graduation. This requirement may be completed by curricular or extracurricular experiences. The curricular requirement option may include study abroad, supported learning experiences, infusion of content across courses, or one course or a series of courses, so long as the particular approach meets the approval of the student's college or school. The extra-curricular option may be fulfilled with a community service program or related project approved by the individual school or college. Having once satisfied this requirement, the student will not have to fulfill it again unless it is part of program requirements for his or her major. Both the curricular and extra-curricular options will be developed or revisited by each school or college in consultation with students from that particular school or college.

The cultural diversity requirement should enable students to develop their understanding of issues of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and class, not only within the cultures they are studying, but also as applied to their own cultures. Thus faculty teaching courses or supervising extra-curricular experiences should help students process their experiences and insights by application to the contemporary cultures in which they live.

Each school and college is charged with determining what courses and/or experiences of domestic or global study fulfill the curricular option, and what activities fulfill the extra-curricular option. Units will design the requirement so that there is not an increase in hours beyond the approved limit. Each school and college will be responsible for monitoring the compliance of its students to the requirement, beginning in Fall of 1998.

The University will not mandate a cultural diversity requirement for students in post baccalaureate programs. However, each school or college with a post baccalaureate program is encouraged, using its own procedures, to evaluate the adequacy of those programs with respect to diversity content and issues and to make modifications where necessary.




The University of Georgia

School of Environmental Design P 2: 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. James E. Fletcher
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: John F. Crowley, Dean 

DATE: March 5, 1998

RE: Cultural Diversity – School of Environmental Design

The following is a preliminary or concept stage strategy with which the School of Environmental Design proposes that its students meet the University of Georgia's Cultural Diversity Requirement. The faculty is still finalizing the course content outlines for semester conversion and as a result certain teaching modules which will count toward meeting the diversity requirement are not complete. The School sees a series of ways in which the student academic and experiential exposure to diverse cultures can be accomplished to meet the requirement. The concept involves each undergraduate student gaining 5 cultural diversity points prior to graduation and that each transcript lists the course or activity the student participated in and the number of points gained for each up to the required total of 5.

Below listed are some of the ways students will be able to meet the requirement.

1. Elective Course. Take an elective course, which the university certifies as meeting the requirement (5 points). The School does not plan to create such a course.
2. Course Modules. Within the required sequence of courses for the major of landscape architecture there are lecture classes which in part clearly deal with cultural issues such as urban housing in the city planning course and cultural landscapes in the landscape history sequence. Other courses, which will include cultural modules include history and theory of architecture, landscape ecology, and other lecture courses. Values (such as a half point) will be assigned to each of these identified modules to be accumulated by the students.
3. Internship. All students are required to spend a term (usually the summer following the junior year) as an intern working with a professional firm. Point values will be given based on the type and location of the internship. For example:
 - a. overseas – 5 points
 - b. out of state, large city, 2 ½ points
 - c. Georgia – 1 point
4. Design Studio Studies. Each design studio takes on two to three design subjects each term. Many of them involve subjects such as inner city housing and park design work often involving citizen clients. Such a design module might translate into one half of a point.

5. Terminal Projects. All undergraduates must complete a final project where the student selects, researches, designs and develops a complete design package for a project with faculty supervision. These projects may qualify as exposure to cultural diversity and may be awarded between 1 and 3 points based on relevant merit.
6. International Exchange and Studies Abroad. Approximately 15% of the undergraduate students participate in studies abroad or exchanges. The School will shortly attempt to create a relationship with a British university (Edinburg, Redding or Manchester) where a common set of required landscape courses for a particular semester can be taken either at UGA or at the "sister" British institution. Presently the summer Cortona, Italy program attracts 15 to 20 students per year. In any case a term abroad would be worth all 5 points.

The undergraduate program in the School of Environmental Design requires a full 5 years of study during which time it is expected that all students will easily be exposed to the required amount of "cultural diversity."

cc: Faculty, SED



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dean John F. Crowley
School of Environmental Design

FROM: Sheila Allen, Chair
Subcommittee on Cultural Diversity
University Curriculum Committee

DATE: July 8, 1999

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Cultural Diversity Requirement

The attached policy concerning Implementation of the Cultural Diversity Requirement has been approved and is provided for your information. The University Curriculum Committee Subcommittee on Cultural Diversity has reviewed the Cultural Diversity Implementation plan for your college based on the new policy. The subcommittee would like you to provide a list of the courses for the college that will satisfy the Cultural Diversity Requirement.

Concerning #3. Internship, please refer to the guidelines in the policy specifically addressing extracurricular activities (3.a.2).

Please send your response to the Office of Curriculum Systems, 203 Old College, by August 5, 1999.

cc: Dr. James E. Fletcher
Subcommittee on Cultural Diversity




The University of Georgia

School of Environmental Design

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheila Allen, Chair
Subcommittee on Cultural Diversity
University Curriculum Committee

FROM: Dean John F. Crowley 

DATE: July 13, 1999

RE: *Cultural Diversity Requirement – School of Environmental Design*

14

1. First and foremost, the baccalaureate for Landscape Architecture (BLA) is a five-year required course of study making it much more likely that the student will have considerable exposure to cultural diversity, as it is a "professional" degree in a licensed profession. It is the only undergraduate degree offered by the school.
2. The following courses are required and each have cultural segments which when added to other required courses result in good exposure to cultural diversity.
 - a. LAND 3530 Planning and Design (2 hrs). Approaches to planning and design in Landscape Architecture. The relationships between applied theories and methods and the environmental, social and cultural context of projects.
 - b. LAND 3540 Dwelling and Community (2 hrs.) Concepts and theories of residential and neighborhood form.
 - c. LAND 4550 Region, Site and Place (2 hrs.). Physical and cultural determinants of landscape character from regional to site specific scales.
3. The following required courses contain a much more comprehensive exposure to cultural diversity.
 - a. EDES 1500 Design and the Environment. (3 hrs.) Meets full Environmental Ethics requirement and deals with integrating ecological, social and cultural values.
 - b. EDES 2510 History of the Built Environment I (3 hrs.). Ancient through Renaissance Periods ... design of the built environment relative to socio-cultural, technological, aesthetic and environmental factors.
 - c. EDES 2520 History of the Built Environment II (3 hrs.). 1600 AD to the Present.
 - d. EDES 4650/6650 City Planning (2 hrs.) ... Community goals and objectives.
4. There are a large number of other courses which have considerable "cultural" content or which, depending on the project selected could have (and often do). All students complete the program with a comprehensive design project, which must take all primary factors into consideration (environmental, social, cultural, economic, etc. (LAND 4720/4900 9 hrs.)

5. All students are required to do an internship during the summer between their 4th and 5th years. These internships are in professional design practices or in public agencies. LAND 4720 Landscape Architecture Internship (8hrs. minimum of two months)
6. All students are exposed to field trips and studies which are built into eight required 4 hour design studios which are taken during each semester of the four final years in the program (LAND 2010, 2020, 3030, 3040, 4050, 4060, 4070 and 4080 or 4150).
7. The School also has elective summer field studies or studies abroad with Cortona (Italy), the East Coast Field Trip (2 weeks) and the West Coast Field Trip (2 weeks). LAND 4800/6800.

Because virtually all of the above are requirements for graduation from the program, our compliance monitor will be Professor Scott Weinberg who is our Director of Resident (Undergraduate) Instruction.