

Proposition: 05-15/16

Title: Modification of the University's Viewing a Wider World requirement.

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Proposed Committee:

Assigned Committee: University Affairs

Prior Approvals: Associate Dean's Academic Council 10/12/15

University Affairs recommendation of 'Do Pass' 11/12/15

Proposal: Reduce the University required number of VWW credit hours from 6 to 3. The remaining 3 hour VWW course must be in a different college from their major department, with the exception of majors in the College of Arts and Sciences who will be allowed to take 3 credits of VWW from another department within the College of Arts and Sciences, and must not be cross listed with a course in their home department.

Rationale: The state legislature has voiced intent for bachelor's degrees to have a maximum of 120 hours of required coursework with the goal of increasing graduation rates. The faculty senate and the university recently approved the change of the total credit hours to a minimum of 120. Although it is not currently required, many programs are reviewing their curricula to reduce their total credit hour count to align with the new minimum. This proposition will assist these programs in reaching their goals. Compared to peer institutions, NMSU ranks 3rd in the highest total number of student credit hours required for a degree. This is owing to the General Education requirement where 6 additional credit hours of VWW classes are part of the curriculum; no peer universities currently require 6 credit hours of VWW courses.

Suggested Catalog Changes:

Prior to graduating, NMSU students are required to take ~~two~~ **a** courses from **a** separate colleges from the Viewing a Wider World list in the Undergraduate Catalog. ~~These~~ **This** courses ~~are~~ **is an** upper-division (300-400 level) General Education courses and should be taken in a student’s junior and/or senior year. ~~One of~~ **†**The ~~two~~ courses must be in a college other than their own **except for majors in the College of Arts and Sciences where the course** ~~The other course may be taken within their home college, but this course~~ (1) must be in a different department from their major department.; **†**The course (2) must not be cross-listed with a course in their home department; **and** (3) cannot be counted as one of the requirements for the student’s major.

These courses strongly emphasize the international character and multicultural influences in the fields of study and strengthen information retrieval skills. ~~One of~~ **†**The courses (~~3 credits~~) can be replaced by study abroad experience, consisting of at least four weeks of a Study Abroad program or university coursework in a foreign country earning 3 credits.

Supplementary Information

Required credit hours of NMSU and its peer institutions.

Peer Institutions	Required Core Credits
University of Nevada	46
Texas Tech (Lubbock)	44
New Mexico State University	43
University of Texas at El Paso	42
Oklahoma State University	40
Kansas State University	39
University of Arizona	39
University of New Mexico	37
Colorado State University	36
University of Idaho	36
University of Wyoming	36
Iowa State University	34
Washington State University	34
Utah State University	34
Oregon State University	34
Montana State University	30
Average	37.75

Mapping of student outcomes.

NMSU BE - ABET - VWW

Baccalaureate Experience	ABET Outcome				VWW
Academically Prepared	Ability to apply mathematics, science and engineering principles	Ability to design and conduct experiments, analyze and interpret data	Ability to design a system, component, or process to meet desired needs	Ability to use the techniques, skills and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice	
Life-Long Learning	Recognition of the need for and an ability to engage in life-long learning	Knowledge of contemporary issues			
Effective Communication	Ability to communicate effectively	Ability to function on multidisciplinary teams			A research project or structured, documented inquiry in the form of information gathering, evaluation and formal presentation.
Self-Awareness	Understanding of professional and ethical responsibility	Ability to function on multidisciplinary teams			a. An international experience or examination of international issues. b. Examination and analysis of multicultural issues. c. Investigation of interdisciplinary approaches to the subject matter. d. Analysis of ethical issues.
Technological Literacy	Ability to communicate effectively	Understanding of professional and ethical responsibility	Ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems		
Informational Literacy	Ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems	Understanding of professional and ethical responsibility	Ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems		A research project or structured, documented inquiry in the form of information gathering, evaluation and formal presentation.
Citizenship	The broad education necessary to understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global and societal context	Understanding of professional and ethical responsibility	Knowledge of contemporary issues		a. An international experience or examination of international issues. b. Examination and analysis of multicultural issues. c. Investigation of interdisciplinary approaches to the subject matter. d. Analysis of ethical issues.
Diversity	Ability to function on multidisciplinary teams	Knowledge of contemporary issues			a. An international experience or examination of international issues. b. Examination and analysis of multicultural issues. c. Investigation of interdisciplinary approaches to the subject matter. d. Analysis of ethical issues.
Critical Thinking	Ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.	The broad education necessary to understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global and societal context			
Sense of Identity and Community with NMSU					
Creativity	Ability to design a system, component, or process to meet desired needs	Ability to use the techniques, skills and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice	Ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems		A creative arts activity or project

Engineering Student Survey

Dear NMSU Engineering Student. In an effort to reduce the number of credit hours required for graduation, the College of Engineering is proposing to modify the current University requirement of 2 Viewing a Wider World courses. The College of Engineering ABET accreditation process provides evidence that the VWW student outcomes as stated in the University Catalog are already being met by our ABET accreditation requirements. What is your opinion on the current VWW requirements?

Answer Choices –	Responses
–	–
Remove BOTH Viewing a Wider World course requirements from the Engineering curriculum.	46.12% 113
–	
Remove only ONE Viewing a Wider World course requirement from the Engineering curriculum.	35.10% 86
–	
Leave the Viewing a Wider World course requirements in the Engineering curriculum as is.	14.29% 35
–	
Add additional Viewing a Wider World course requirements to the Engineering curriculum.	4.49% 11
Total	245