

Memorandum

Date: January 18, 2012

To: McRae Amos, Chair of General Education Committee

From: Michelle Parry, Chair of Chemistry & Physics Curriculum Committee
Melissa Rhoten, Chair of Chemistry & Physics Department

CC: Doug Dalton, Chair of CCCAS Curriculum Committee
Charles Ross, Dean CCCAS

Subject: Request for exemption from General Education Goal 6 for students completing PHYS 102 or PHYS 202.

Over the past year with the assessment data collected for Goal 6 courses, it has become increasingly apparent that PHYS 101 and PHYS 201 should not be listed as general education courses. These courses are meant to be the first part of a two-semester sequence designed for students majoring in sciences or related fields that require a higher level content knowledge than a single stand-alone general education course such as PHYS 103. With the successful completion of the two semester sequence of PHYS 101/102 or PHYS 201/202, students will have exceeded the outcomes of goal 6 and will have covered the same but higher level content as PHYS 103. In an effort to streamline curriculum, we propose students who complete PHYS 102 or PHYS 202 be exempt from Goal 6 in the same manner that students completing MATH 164, 261, or 267 are exempt from goal 5.

This change will have the biggest impact on science majors as they are currently required to take one of these two semester sequence of courses. Additionally, athletic training majors are required to take PHYS 101 and PHYS 102 for the major and exercise science majors may elect to take this sequence if they plan to attend professional school after graduation. Although PHYS 101 is currently a requirement for exercise science majors, in recent years students in this program have been given the option to take PHYS 103 in place of this course if they do not plan to take the PHYS 101/102 sequence in preparation for professional studies. Thus, this exemption will not have a negative impact on the programs currently using PHYS 101 and PHYS 201 as general education courses. This change will also not impact course offerings for PHYS 101 and PHYS 201 or the necessity for additional seats in other general education goal 6 courses due to the fact that currently PHYS 101 sections are restricted to biology, athletic training, and exercise science majors and PHYS 201 sections are restricted to physics and chemistry majors. Since all of these majors will take the two-semester sequence, they would be exempt from Goal 6 eliminating the need for additional sections of general education goal 6 courses.

Current Catalog Language:

Goal 6. The application of the methods of science to the acquisition of knowledge, and an appreciation of the major contributions of science to our cultural heritage and to the solution of contemporary problems (four credits).

Outcomes: Students will

- Understand the major methods of natural science inquiry
- Recognize and explain major contributions of science to our cultural heritage
- Understand how natural science has been used to address significant contemporary issues

BIOL 101	Biological Concepts and Applications/4 credits
CHEM 101	General Chemistry/4 credits
PHYS 101	General Physics/4 credits
PHYS 103	Conceptual Physics/4 credits
PHYS 105	General Astronomy/4 credits
PHYS 201	University Physics I/4 credits
GNED 162	Introduction to Environmental Science/4 credits
GNED 261	Exploring Science in Our World/4 credits

Proposed Language:

Goal 6. The application of the methods of science to the acquisition of knowledge, and an appreciation of the major contributions of science to our cultural heritage and to the solution of contemporary problems (four credits).

NOTE: Students who complete PHYS 102 or PHYS 202 are exempt from this goal

Outcomes: Students will

- Understand the major methods of natural science inquiry
- Recognize and explain major contributions of science to our cultural heritage
- Understand how natural science has been used to address significant contemporary issues

BIOL 101	Biological Concepts and Applications/4 credits
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PHYS 101	General Physics/4 credits
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Department: Chemistry and Physics

Program Name: Physics

Approvals

		Date	Signature
1	Department Curriculum Committee Chair		
2	Department Chair		
<p>If the proposed course could have an impact on other departments or programs, the appropriate affected chairs or program directors should be notified of the proposed changes.</p>			
Departments/programs that might be affected		Individuals contacted and date contacted	
		Date	Signature
3	College Dean		
4	General Education Committee		
5	Educational Policies Committee		
6	Faculty Senate Chair		
7	Date Received by Registrar		