



University of Washington Office of the President AH 30

April 15, 1983

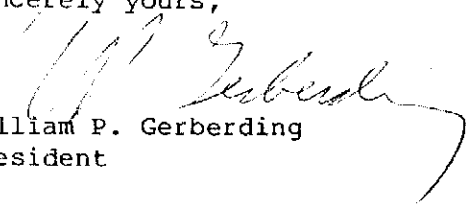
Dean Ernest M. Henley
College of Arts and Sciences
GN-15

Dear Ernest:

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards on April 5, 1983, recommended approval of the revised College of Arts and Sciences Proficiency Requirements which you transmitted to me on September 28, 1982.

I am writing to inform you that the College of Arts and Sciences is authorized to implement these revised requirements effective Autumn Quarter, 1985. Please note this authorization does not include the College's revised General Educational requirements, whose review is still not finished.

Sincerely yours,


William P. Gerberding
President

cc: Provost George M. Beckmann
Mr. John Gardner
Mr. Richard Simkins
Mr. W. W. Washburn
Associate Professor Donald T. Williams

CARS-19830415

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

Office of the Provost

April 6, 1983

TO: George M. Beckmann
Provost

FROM: Morgan D. Thomas
Vice Provost

Morgan

SUBJECT: Implementation Date for College of Arts and Sciences Proficiency
Requirements

At its meeting held on April 5, 1983 the Faculty Council on Academic Standards unanimously recommended that President Gerberding approve the implementation of the College of Arts and Sciences Proficiency Requirements, effective Autumn Quarter 1985.

MDT:lkc

cc: President William Gerberding
Dean Ernest Henley
Professor Gunter Krumme
Assistant Vice President John K. Gardner
Ms. Catherine Hendricks

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

College of Arts and Sciences - Office of the Dean GN-15

September 28, 1982

TO: William P. Gerberding
President

FROM: Ernest M. Henley *Ernest M. Henley*
Dean

RE: College of Arts and Sciences
General Education and Proficiency Requirements

Following a meeting of the faculty on May 26, 1982, a mail ballot was distributed concerning recommendations to change the current General Education and Proficiency Requirements of the College. The faculty voted to approve* changes in the requirements that were recommended by the College Committees on General Education and Academic Practices.

I endorse these changes, which strengthen previous requirements, and herewith transmit them to you for approval in accordance with the Handbook, Vol. II, Section 23-48. If the changes are approved, it is my intention to implement them as follows: General Education, effective Autumn Quarter 1983; Proficiency, effective Autumn Quarter 1984.

*Vote: 435 of 809 eligible faculty members voted in favor of the changes as follows: General Education - 296
Proficiency (a) writing and foreign language - 364
(b) quantitative and symbolic reasoning - 247

EMH/DP/cu
Enclosure

cc: J. Gardner ✓
W. Phillips

College of Arts and Sciences

Proposed Changes in General Education and Proficiency Requirements

General Education

Current Requirement

Adopted in 1969, the current General Education Requirement obligates students to complete 20 credits of courses in each of three areas: Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences.

Proposed Requirement

Students will be required to take 20 credits in each of three categories, as follows:

- I. Natural sciences and quantitative studies: 10 of 20 credits must be from an approved list of linked sequences.
- II. Humanities: a minimum of 5 of 20 credits must be taken in each of two sub-categories: (1) language and literature and (2) the arts.
- III. Social sciences: a minimum of 5 of 20 credits must be taken in each of two sub-categories: (1) history, philosophy, and civilization; (2) social sciences.

Undergraduate courses that have a substantial writing component will be designated with a "W" prefix. Students will be required to complete at least 10 credits of courses with the "W" prefix out of the total of 180 credits required for graduation.

In addition, a number of recommended optional sequences of linked courses will be provided on the distribution lists for all categories other than the natural sciences and quantitative skills. These sequences will be designed to provide guidance to students in the planning of their programs.

Rationale

The new requirement ensures that students will have done at least minimal course work in a larger number of intellectual areas than are covered in the present requirement. In particular, the new requirement guarantees that students will have some familiarity with such important areas as literature, the arts, history, philosophy, and civilization, which can be totally bypassed under the present requirement. It also attempts to ensure some depth of coverage by means of the linked sequences. Furthermore, the new requirement eliminates the possibility of a student completing his/her undergraduate studies in the College without having taken any courses that require substantial written composition.

Proficiency Requirement

Current Requirement

Adopted in 1969, the current Proficiency Requirement is as follows:

All incoming students whose high school program includes 3 units (years) of college preparatory mathematics, 3 units (years) of a single foreign language, and 4 units (years) of English, will be considered to have satisfied the Proficiency Requirement. Students who do not satisfy the Requirement in this way are required during the first year in residence to complete 15 credits normally selected from such courses in English composition, foreign language, or mathematics as are considered most appropriate to their needs and interests. Incoming students with 90 or more acceptable transfer credits, and students who have fulfilled the General Education Requirements of other accredited colleges or universities, will be considered to have satisfied the Proficiency Requirement. Courses taken to satisfy the Proficiency Requirement will normally not be accepted in satisfaction of the distribution requirement.

Proposed Requirement

Students who enter the College as freshmen, as well as transfer students, will be required to complete the following Proficiency Requirement:

Writing. The writing requirement will be satisfied by successful completion of a 5 credit lower division English composition course or by some other approved writing course. This requirement will normally be completed by the end of the student's first year at the University.

Mathematics (quantitative and symbolic reasoning). This requirement will be satisfied by successful completion of 5 credits of course work in mathematics, logic, statistics, or computer science. Students may also fulfill this requirement by passing an approved test.

Foreign Language. This requirement will be satisfied by successful completion of a foreign language 103 course, or its equivalent. Students may also fulfill this requirement by passing an approved test. The requirement normally will be completed by the end of the student's second year of study at the University.

For each of the three areas of proficiency, a standing committee will be appointed to (1) approve courses (including those transferred from other institutions) and, where appropriate, tests used to satisfy the requirement; and (2) monitor effectiveness and assess problems associated with the program in their respective areas.

Rationale

There are four principal problems with the current Proficiency Requirement: (1) When students do not meet proficiency in English composition, mathematics, and foreign language upon entrance to the University, the current requirement does not require them to establish proficiency by taking courses that are in the same area in which the lack of proficiency occurs. (2) Under the current requirement, students can manipulate credits to avoid taking courses in one or more of the proficiency areas. This violates the intent of the requirement. (3) Transfer students are treated differently from students who enter the University as freshmen. (4) The current requirements for college level proficiency are stated in terms of high school level courses, and the preparation of entering students based on high schoolwork is highly variable.

The new requirements help to respond to national and local concerns about the basic skills of college graduates in the three proficiency areas. The new requirements remove the ambiguity found in the current requirements that define college level proficiency in terms of the completion of high school courses. Further, by demanding the demonstration of proficiency in each of three areas, the new requirements correct the problem of incoherence since students will now establish proficiency in the same areas in which the lack of proficiency occurs.