

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 4 – K

DATE: October 5, 2016

SUBJECT: Common Prerequisites

During the [June 2015](#) and August 2016 AAC meetings, the council discussed issues emerging with campus common course requests with unique prerequisites. System [Common Course Guidelines](#) state that “Common courses shall have common CIP codes, prefixes, course numbers, course titles, course descriptions, and prerequisite requirements.” During both of these meetings, the council affirmed that the long-term integrity of the common course catalog required that common courses should maintain a common set of prerequisites. During the August 2016 meeting, an analysis was presented to AAC to demonstrate the impact on student success in CHEM 112 when comparing different institutional standards for having MATH 102 as a prerequisite for this course. Overall, 84.3 percent of Fall 2015 CHEM-112 students who previously had passed MATH-102 or higher also passed CHEM-112. Students who previously had not passed MATH 102 or higher passed CHEM-112 at only a slightly lower rate (82.6 percent). Additionally, system-level differences were not statistically significant. After reviewing the data, the council agreed that additional analysis should be done to determine the extent that the common course catalog has allowed for the expansion of uncommon prerequisites. While no automated approach is available for identifying all uncommon prerequisite courses, Board staff used the course reporting tool to identify those courses currently approved to meet system General Education requirements. A complete list of those worthy of review are provided in Attachment I.

Additionally, following the August discussion, a request emerged to conduct a similar analysis on ECON 201 and 202 to determine variations in student success based on the completion of MATH 102 or ECON 201 prior to enrollment. To accomplish this a list of all students taking ECON-201 from one of our universities in Fall 2015 was generated, and then a flag was added depicting which of these students previously had taken and passed MATH-102. (MATH-102 could have been taken by any means, i.e., from us, transferred in, passed by exam, etc.). Table 1 on the following page shows ECON-201 pass rates by university and MATH-102 history. Overall, 84.74 percent of Fall 2015 ECON-201 students who previously had passed MATH-102 also passed ECON-201. Students who previously had not passed MATH 102 passed ECON-201 at only a slightly lower rate (82.07 percent). The system-level difference was not statistically significant.

(Continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discussion & Recommendation.

Table 1
Fall 2015 ECON-201 Pass Rates by University and MATH-102 History

univ	Math 102+			math102 and econ_grade No Math 102+			TOTAL		
	Not Passing	Passing	TOTAL	Not Passing	Passing	TOTAL	Not Passing	Passing	TOTAL
BHSU	14 22.58	48 77.42	62 100.00	9 16.67	45 83.33	54 100.00	23 19.83	93 80.17	116 100.00
DSU	6 10.00	54 90.00	60 100.00	3 8.57	32 91.43	35 100.00	9 9.47	86 90.53	95 100.00
NSU	7 11.29	55 88.71	62 100.00	7 29.17	17 70.83	24 100.00	14 16.28	72 83.72	86 100.00
SDSU	34 17.99	155 82.01	189 100.00	34 21.38	125 78.62	159 100.00	68 19.54	280 80.46	348 100.00
USD	15 12.00	110 88.00	125 100.00	25 15.34	138 84.66	163 100.00	40 13.89	248 86.11	288 100.00
TOTAL	76 15.26	422 84.74	498 100.00	78 17.93	357 82.07	435 100.00	154 16.51	779 83.49	933 100.00

Furthermore a list of students taking ECON-202 from one of our universities in Fall 2015 was generated and a flag showing which of these students previously had taken and passed ECON-201 was added (ECON-201 could have been taken by any means, i.e., from us, transferred in, passed by exam, etc.). Table 2 below shows ECON-202 pass rates by university and ECON-201 history. Overall, 92.71 percent of Fall 2015 ECON-202 students who previously had passed ECON-201 also passed ECON-202. Students who previously had not passed ECON-201 passed ECON-202 at only a slightly lower rate (89.37 percent). The system-level difference was not statistically significant.

Table 2
Fall 2015 ECON-202 Pass Rates by University and ECON-201 History

univ	Econ 201			econ201 and econ_grade No Econ 201			TOTAL		
	Not Passing	Passing	TOTAL	Not Passing	Passing	TOTAL	Not Passing	Passing	TOTAL
BHSU	1 2.27	43 97.73	44 100.00	4 12.12	29 87.88	33 100.00	5 6.49	72 93.51	77 100.00
DSU	1 11.11	8 88.89	9 100.00	6 30.00	14 70.00	20 100.00	7 24.14	22 75.86	29 100.00
NSU	3 12.50	21 87.50	24 100.00	4 9.09	40 90.91	44 100.00	7 10.29	61 89.71	68 100.00
SDSU	9 9.00	91 91.00	100 100.00	40 9.76	370 90.24	410 100.00	49 9.61	461 90.39	510 100.00
USD	4 5.71	66 94.29	70 100.00		1 100.00	1 100.00	4 5.63	67 94.37	71 100.00
TOTAL	18 7.29	229 92.71	247 100.00	54 10.63	454 89.37	508 100.00	72 9.54	683 90.46	755 100.00

The analysis for CHEM 112, ECON 201 and ECON 202 had demonstrated that requiring prerequisites for these courses has had little to no predictive validity for determining student success in the course. AAC should review the courses listed in [Attachment I](#) and determine which courses should be assessed during the Fall 2016 term to determine the value of continuing to maintain the uncommon prerequisite structures that are in place.