

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Curriculum Committee

**FROM:** Curriculum Diversity Focus Group

**DATE:** November 8, 1995

**SUBJECT:** Clarification of Guidelines for Courses Submitted for the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Graduation Requirement (Revised)

On April 26, 1995 the Skyline College Curriculum Committee approved a proposal for an Ethnic and Cultural Diversity graduation requirement. The committee approved a 3.0 unit requirement which could be selected from a list of courses approved for either Area A (General) or Area B (Area Studies). Please refer to AA/AS requirements handout attached with this memorandum.

Guidelines for the requirement and for each Area were contained in the original proposal. However, the focus group felt that the curriculum committee needed a document which clearly stated the guidelines and addressed issues which might be raised, as the committee will be responsible for reviewing all future courses submitted for meeting this requirement. In addition, the Focus Group also felt that it was important that faculty also have clear guidelines for designing/redesigning courses to meet this requirement, particularly for Area A, which was a specific charge from the curriculum committee.

The educational goals for this requirement as stated in the original proposal are as follows:

1. To provide students with opportunities to understand the history, customs, traditions, rituals, communication styles, patterns of behavior, language, perceptions, and world-views of different ethnic and cultural groups represented in the Bay Area community.
2. To help students better understand and appreciate the ethnic and cultural diversity of our society as we move toward increasing diversity in our neighborhoods, schools, and work places. Understanding and appreciating the richness of differences helps to facilitate change and increases our ability to work together as a society.
3. To help students develop sensitivity and skills in living and working in a diverse community.

Clarification of Guidelines

In order to fulfill the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity requirement, students must complete a total of 3.0 units selected from Area A (General) and/or Area B (Area Studies).

**CRITERIA FOR AREA A (GENERAL) COURSES**

Course must be degree applicable, preferably transferable. The course must require students to study multiple ethnic groups and cultures, how those groups interact, and have as an outcome students developing sensitivity and acquiring skills for successfully living and working in a diverse society. Courses which meet this requirement must have a primary focus on the major ethnic and cultural groups in the Bay Area such as indigenous peoples of the United States, African-Americans, Pacific Islanders, Filipino-Americans, Chicano/Latino Americans, European-Americans, Middle-Eastern Americans, and/or other immigrant groups. In order to qualify for Area A, the course must focus on issues in history, society or culture, and address issues relevant to understanding race, culture, and ethnicity in our society.

**CRITERIA FOR AREA B (AREA STUDIES)**

Course must be degree applicable, preferably transferable. In order to qualify for Area B, the course must focus on the study of one or more ethnic and cultural group(s). The course must facilitate understanding of, and appreciation for the group(s) from a historical, cultural, psychological, or sociological perspective.

**PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW APPROVAL**

- [1] The course outline must reflect a primary focus of the course on the criteria outlined for either A or B. All sections of the course must be taught consistently to the outline.
- [2] In order to fulfill the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity requirement, a course must be on the approved list at the time the student took the course, i.e. if modifications are made to existing courses not presently on the list and these courses are added to the list, they are effective only if taken after approval.
- [3] It is expected that all courses recommended for the requirement will also be recommended for transfer credit.

**FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COURSES FOR AREA A (GENERAL)**

The Curriculum Diversity Focus Group recognizes that it received a charge from the Curriculum Committee at its meetings on April 26 and October 4, 1995 for further development of courses to meet the Area A requirement. The Curriculum Diversity Focus Group has conveyed this message to appropriate deans and hopes that as more courses are developed and approved we will be able to submit consideration for a 6.0 unit Ethnic and Cultural Diversity requirement (3 units Area A, and 3 units Area B) as reflected in our original proposal.

Attachment: AA/AS Degree Handout

Revised:11-08-95/LCR