

Waiver of CLA Core Curriculum for Dual Degree Students

At its November 10, 2017 Meeting, the CLA Core Renewal Working Group unanimously endorsed the following proposal:

CLA will waive the requirements of the CLA Core Curriculum for dual degree undergraduate students whose secondary major is in CLA but whose primary major is in another college.

The primary motivation for the proposal is the goal of increasing the number of CLA students (majors) by making it easier for students whose primary major is outside of CLA to pursue a dual degree with a secondary major in CLA. The proposal does this by removing the barrier of the CLA Core Curriculum for such students only.

Here are some data that give a sense of the scope of the issue and the potential to increase CLA majors:

1. Of the 356 dual degree students in CLA, 190 have both degree programs in CLA, 67 have their primary major in CLA, and 99 students have their primary major in another college and their secondary major in CLA.
2. 1581 students have at least one CLA minor but a major in another college, and these students are distributed throughout 20 CLA minors.

Though it is difficult to assess the precise extent of the problem, many units within CLA report difficulty recruiting double majors from outside CLA due to the additional coursework requirements imposed by the CLA Core. This is particularly an issue for students who become interested in a double major later in their college career. Thus, we think it reasonable to expect that a not insubstantial portion of the 1581 CLA minors with non-CLA majors could be converted to CLA secondary majors if the requirement of the Core were waived. At present, the proposal would affect only 99 students, so any decline in enrollments as a result of its adoption is likely to be minimal.

And, since such students are already pursuing degrees in two different colleges and satisfying the University Core Curriculum, sufficient breadth is already secured without the enforcement of the CLA Core.

The CLA Core Renewal Working Group is composed of representatives from every CLA department and school. Questions about this proposal can be directed to its chair, Chris Yeomans (cyeomans@purdue.edu).