

Keeping the intellectual issues requirement, then, is in keeping with the philosophy of general education, and indeed education in general, at Oswego. The decision to require that students take an intellectual issues course outside their first major is also in keeping with the philosophy that underpins our general education program. General education provides a breadth of knowledge for the student, knowledge which will complement the in-depth knowledge gained through study in a major. Moreover, part of the intent of the original requirement was to help a student see that moving beyond the comfort zone provided by her or his major in order to confront an issue is possible, meaningful, and valuable. This move to an interdisciplinary and integrative position and perspective, of course, will serve the students in the best possible stead after they are graduated from SUNY/Oswego.

There are concrete and immediate benefits from the proposed change. It will offer more flexibility for students, for faculty, and for departments. In no case will the change mean that the student will have to complete more general education hours than is presently the case. Students will not be prohibited from taking a course in their first major that is also approved in the intellectual issues category; they simply will not be able to use that course to fulfill their intellectual issues requirement. While we must be sure not to abandon our commitment to the intellectual issues category, departments and programs will be in a position to take a careful look at staffing and resources in light of the fact that fewer seats will be needed to meet the demand.