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New Course Designator Proposal, School of Arts and Communication, College of Liberal Arts

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Proposal: New SAC Course Designator

The School of Arts and Communication (SAC) is a non-departmental school with degree programs in Art, Graphic Design (GD), Music (MUS), New Media Communications (NMC), Speech Communication (COMM) and Theatre Arts (TA).

Purpose: The proposed course designator should have an identified purpose within the curricular structure of Oregon State University.

- What academic programs, including majors, certificates, options and minors will be served by courses within the designator?

The School of Arts and Communication (SAC) is creating several school-wide initiatives, such as a new certificate and/or minor in Arts Administration and a multi unit graduate program is in the early stages of development. Initially we worked to create cross-listed courses (Art 451, TA 451, MUS 451, etc). However the six degree programs in SAC developed their courses independently as separate departments in the College of Liberal Arts prior to the 2012 merger into a non-departmentalized school. We now find we don't have enough open numbers in each area (such as Art 251, MUS 251, NMC 251, TA 251, COMM 251 and GD 251) to be able to create the new cross-program initiatives, such as the new School of Arts and Communication (SAC) Arts Entrepreneurship certificate currently in progress.

- In what ways do the general area and scope of the content constitute a coherent body of knowledge?

We are also offering courses that are required in multiple SAC programs such as Art 121, now required in Art, Graphic Design and New Media Communications. Music is developing audio courses that will also be offered in NMC, TA, and Art. Several current and planned video courses are required in both Art and NMC.

We request the SAC course designator so that students in all six degree programs can easily sign up for the new school-wide courses and take advantage of our new collaborative approach in arts and communication.

We are also charged by the CLA Dean to create new graduate programs. In many universities, Art, Graphic Design and New Media Communications would be in one department with a single course designator. We are currently planning a collaborative master's degree in Visualization which will combine these three units with some Music Audio courses. The SAC designator would be used for the new collaborative master's degree.

- Is the proposed usage of the designator consistent with practice at OSU and other institutions? Give examples.

Examples of non-degree program designators within the College of Liberal Arts include a separate “LA” course designator used for LA 199 and 399, “PAX” for Peace Studies for PAX 201, 402 and 410, and the recently approved “AJ” for Applied Journalism, a collaborative minor in the School of Writing Literature and Film, the School of Arts and Communication, and the SEC Orange Media Network. Examples at OSU include the “IST” designator for Interdisciplinary Programs in the Graduate School with IST 501, 503, 505, 506, 511, 512 and, “JCHS” Joint Campus-Health Sciences University, and “INTL” for International Degree Programs 513with INTL 299, 405 and 410.

Accountability: Responsibility for the integrity and oversight of the proposed subject code:

- What is the academic College of the designator?

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- Who is responsible for administering courses in the designator, e.g. scheduling and catalog updates. Who are the faculty contact persons?

Lee Ann Garrison, Director, School of Arts and Communication, and Felix Oliveros, SAC Head Advisor, will be responsible for administering the courses with the new SAC designator and the faculty contacts.

- Who is responsible for consistency and outcome assessment for courses in the designator?

The SAC Associate Director, under supervision by Lee Ann Garrison, Director, oversees assessment in all SAC courses, including the courses with the new SAC designation.

- Which units get credit for the SCH generated by courses in the subject code?

SAC is non-departmentalized and has a central SAC budget. Therefore, all credits and SCH will stay with SAC.

- Who is responsible for communicating information about the new designator to stakeholders, including advisors, Admissions, and students?

Lee Ann Garrison, SAC Director and those working in the SAC offices will communicate information within the school and across OSU.

Impacts: Who will benefit from the new designator and what changes will result from its implementation?

- Will courses in the new designator duplicate or compete with existing ones?

Courses with the SAC designator will be new courses created for SAC-wide student participation. These courses will be added to SAC degree programs as necessary and will be courses for new certificates, minors and graduate programs that will be available to all students in SAC

- Are there expected cross-listings or curricular equivalencies?

The new SAC designator will eliminate the need for cross-listed courses in SAC programs.

- How will the new designator affect transfer credits?

Transfer credits in the degree programs will be the same as before. If there is a particular class that may transfer, the advisors will assist the students in identifying the best transfer credit.

- Will any previous existing designators expire as the new one appears?

No previous existing designators will expire as the new one appears.

- How will the new designator benefit students?

Students in the School of Arts and Communication will benefit from collaborations across the school. In some universities SAC's six degree programs would be in as few as three departments. The courses slated for the new SAC designation will have applications across all the arts and communications.