**Frequently Asked Questions about New Flags**

1. **Where did the three new Flags come from?**

*In various conversations leading up to the faculty vote of April 2014 (which approved the new Undergraduate Core Curriculum), the faculty recognized that college students, including Xavier students, often demonstrate poor communication skills, particularly in written and spoken words, and in the application of simple math to real world problems. To address these three deficiencies, the faculty voted in favor of implementing three new Flags: Oral Communication, Writing, and Quantitative Reasoning. These three new Flags follow the same model of the two old Flags, E/RS Elective and DCR (which was renamed the Diversity Flag in the new Core).*

1. **How do I learn more about what is required for the new Flags?**

*Flag Libguides. Faculty compiled numerous resources for persons wishing to propose a Flagged Course. These resources are available through the* [*Oral Communication*](http://libguides.xavier.edu/oralcomm_flag)*,* [*Quantitative Reasoning*](http://libguides.xavier.edu/QRflag)*, and* [*Writing*](http://libguides.xavier.edu/writingflag) *Libguides. Each Libguide includes a short article that summarizes expectations of the subject,* [*Oral Communication*](http://www.speaking.pitt.edu/about/teaching.html)*,* [*Quantitative Reasoning*](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/oct99/vol57/num02/Numeracy%40_The_New_Literacy_for_a_Data-Drenched_Society.aspx)*, or* [*Writing*](http://wac.colostate.edu/intro/)*. Each Libguide spells out what is expected of a Flagged Course. Faculty who have composed these Libguides are ready to assist anyone who wishes to submit a proposal. Applicants who have used the Libguides have often remarked that the expectations for a Flagged Course were not as onerous as expected.*

1. **Will students fulfill these new core-required flags as part of their core coursework?**

*They may, but they don’t have to do so. Flags should help students hone much-needed skills which they can then put to work in advanced coursework. Some students will take a flagged course that will also count as one of the general core requirements (for example, a Social Science Elective or a Scientific Perspectives course, etc.). Other students will take a flagged course within the requirements of their major. And still other students will take a flagged course in a new discipline (outside the major) about which they are curious.*

1. **Does this mean that *my* department needs to consider proposing flagged courses?**

*Yes. All departments should propose flagged courses, including departments that did not teach in the old core. While some departments feel their course offerings more naturally fit with some, but not all the flags, all departments are encouraged if possible to propose courses in each of the three new flagged areas. Departments are encouraged to propose flagged courses/sections for majors and also courses/sections for non-majors. The flags will be implemented successfully through broad faculty participation.*

*Students are best served if they can fulfill the flags through a combination of courses in their major and in the general core requirements. For every flag a student has to meet outside of the major and outside of the general core requirements, the size of that student’s core increases by three credit hours*

1. **At what level should Flags be offered?**

*As soon as possible, probably during sophomore year. After students complete a full first year of courses, the three new Flags preferably should be available during sophomore year so that a student can learn the skill earlier on and hopefully improve the skill throughout their academic career. Offering a Flag as a capstone is discouraged.*

1. **How much of a course must be devoted to a Flag to gain approval as a Flagged course?**

*At least 20%. A Flag constitutes a significant portion of a course that is devoted to one of the five topics of the Flags.*

1. **Which courses are eligible for Flags?**

*Almost all courses in all disciplines are eligible, though some courses are more preferred than others. Flagged courses can be nearly any course, including Perspectives Courses, with the following qualifications:*

*(1) the E/RS Flag cannot also satisfy the Humanities Elective,*

*(2) neither ENGL 101 Composition nor ENGL 115 Rhetoric can fulfill the Writing Flag, and*

*(3) some Mathematical Perspectives Courses can fulfill the Quantitative Reasoning Flag, even though one offering of a Mathematical Perspectives Course cannot satisfy both the Mathematical Perspectives requirement and the Quantitative Reasoning Flag at the same time.*

*As some core courses offered in a student’s first year (First-Year Seminar and Theological Foundations, for example) have many other course goals, adding a Flag in these first-year courses is discouraged. And capstone courses are also discouraged; faculty had hoped that students would learn the Flagged skills long before the end of their academic career.*

1. **Can Flags double-count?**

*Yes. Flagged courses often double count for other courses in the core, for major requirements, and/or for minor requirements, and thus do not add to the total number of credit hours required in the Core Curriculum.*

1. **How many Flags can a course have?**

*Two. No single course can fulfill more than two Flags.*

1. **Does a Flag apply to a course (regardless of who teaches it) or to a particular section of a course (with a specific teacher)?**

*A Flag can be approved either as a course or a section. Application for approval asks whether the course should apply to the course or to a section. The applicant decides. Once approved, the course attributes posted by the Registrar will note whether the Flagged course is approved for all sections or for some sections. (Approving either the course or the section has been the long-standing policy for the two older Flags, E/RS elective and Diversity.)*

1. **Who oversees the integrity of the course as a flagged course after the course has been approved as a flagged course?**

*Departmental Chair. Once a course is approved, the Chair of the department in which the course is offered must make sure that the course keeps offering the flag material (just as Department Chairs must oversee the integrity of all courses). If the flag component has been removed, the Departmental Chair should alert the appropriate flag subcommittee so that the flag can be removed from the course.*

1. **Can an existing course (such as one with a significant writing component) automatically count as a Flag?**

*No. All courses must be designed in light of the recommendations of the appropriate Core Curriculum subcommittee. All courses must be approved by the appropriate subcommittee.*

1. **Who approves Flags?**

*Flagged courses are approved by a Core Curriculum Committee (CCC) subcommittee that is devoted to each Flag topic. Subcommittee members are generated from call of CCC for self-nominations. The Oral Communication subcommittee must include a faculty member from the Communications Department. The Writing subcommittee must include a faculty member from the English Department. And the Quantitative Reasoning subcommittee must include a faculty member from the Mathematics Department. Subcommittees work with faculty to develop proposals.*

1. **What is the deadline for applying for Flags?**

*The deadline for application is two weeks before priority registration for the next semester in which a Flag can be implemented. Ideally, proposals should be submitted by March 15 for fall 2016 courses in order to get the flag attribute listed on the fall schedule before priority registration; however, flag committees will review proposals beyond that date.*

1. **How do I apply for a Flag?**

*See the Core Website, which includes numerous aids in applying for a Flag:* [*http://www.xavier.edu/core/facstaff/*](http://www.xavier.edu/core/facstaff/) *(under quick links)*

Approved by Core Curriculum Committee and

Core Curriculum Flag Subcommittees

2016-02-26