

## **LEP Alternative**

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### **Tier 1**

In this alternative proposal, students would be required to take three FYE courses. In FYE 1, students would be exposed to critical thinking, creative thinking, informational literacy and written communication. These competencies are not separable. They are all interdependent and need to be taught together. In order to write well, you need to be a critical thinker, you need to be able to find and evaluate information, and you need to be able to creatively present your ideas, on paper. In the next course, FYE 2, students would learn oral communication and interpersonal effectiveness, both of which built on the structure of thinking established in FYE 1 and would contribute to their success throughout their lives beyond college. Finally, in FYE 3, students would add the technical fluency to their competency set.

Students should take placement tests in writing at the beginning of the summer, and should take the remedial courses before starting the FYE courses if necessary. The FYE 1 should fulfill the current ENG 112 requirement. Tier 2 and Tier 3 courses, as well as other courses within and outside the major could also apply for “W” status.

### **Tier 2**

After taking the Tier 1 FYE courses in their first year (FYE 1 in the fall and FYE 2 and 3 in the spring), students would go on to take courses in Tier 2, the areas of knowledge. These courses would not be overview courses as so many of our AUR courses are currently. As stated above, these courses would be problem-based and would introduce students to the ways people in these fields approach problems: How does a scientist engage the world? A historian? An artist? A social scientist? Students would be exposed to these perspectives by examining problems in specific fields within these categories. They would learn what contributions would be gained by examining an issue through the “lens” of each discipline and what “blindspots” each discipline carries with it.

### **Tier 3**

Finally, students would take a capstone course. This course would be in the students’ major but administered by an AUR program committee. In this course, students would investigate real problems, perhaps one tied to the local community, and develop possible solutions. Ideally, possibilities exist for having team-taught arrangements with other departments so that the problem could be examined from multiple perspectives. In addition, students could learn from students in other disciplines. In this course, students would learn to engage an issue from a multi-perspective approach. They would learn to use the skills, knowledge and perspectives from Tier 1 and Tier 2 along with their expertise gained from their major to engage a real-life issue and to develop solutions. A component of this course would involve a civic engagement experience connected with the chosen issue.

This alternative AUR program would be administered by an AUR committee that would develop, staff , schedule, and assess the FYE courses. It would also oversee and assess the Tier 2 courses and it would work with the departments to develop, coordinate, and assess the capstone Tier 3 courses.

This alternative AUR program proposal is just an outline. However, it provides a direction for a program that respects the disciplines, has coherence, provides essential competencies, and exposes students to a multi-disciplinary approach to problems. Its goal is to produce a graduate who has the competencies, the broad knowledge, and the multi-disciplinary perspective that are the characteristics of an educated person in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It is believed that this kind of program would be easier to implement, would allow students to graduate in a reasonable 4 year timeline, and would allow students to explore other fields of knowledge through free electives.

### **Alternative AUR Proposal**

#### **Tier 1: Foundational Competencies**

FYE 1: Critical Thinking	3 credits	(Fall)
FYE 2: Oral and Interpersonal Effectiveness	3 credits	(Spring)
FYE 3: Technology fluency	3 credits	(Spring)

#### **Tier 2: Engaging Areas of Knowledge**

HIS	3 credits
Fine Arts	3 credits
Foreign Language (at a 101 level for B.S, 200 for BA)	3 credits
Literature	3 credits
MAT	3 credits
NAT Sci	3 credits
PHI	3 credits
Social Science	3 credits

#### **Tier 3:Capstone**

3 credits  
36 credits