

# Potential Approaches to the AKNS Requirement

## Option 1: A New Baccalaureate and Associate Requirement

This will be similar to the Ethics and Library Science Requirements. Since some of these classes already have the X designator, we will need an additional symbol (e.g. snowflake)

### Merits:

- All Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Baccalaureate students, including transfer students, will be required to take such a course.
- It will be easier to petition courses if this is not a GER. (Students can not currently petition GERs.)
- This will sidestep the question of “does the course have to fit into an existing GER slot”.
- This will also potentially include courses that do not currently fit GER slots (e.g. 300- & 400-level courses).

### Potential Problems:

- An extra 3 credits will be an unacceptable addition to some programs (e.g. Engineering, which is already at 132-135 credits). This will require much concentrated effort in reaching out to programs like Engineering.
- Students may gloss over this requirement until their final year and then claim that they were not able to take the course because all available courses/sections were filled. This may lead to petitions. Of course, if the list is sufficiently extensive (e.g. 15 -20 options), the validity of petitions based on course availability loses some weight.
- Finding a symbol that is appropriate may prove difficult.
- Some proponents of the AKNS requirement may be frustrated if this requirement is applied only to the Baccalaureate students and not the Associate students.

## Option 2: Embed the AKNS Requirement within the GERs

The GER section of the catalog will include the statement “and one of the courses taken must be one of the following” with a list of approved and designated AKNS courses.

### Merits:

- All Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and (most) Baccalaureate students will be required to take such a course.
- There is also the possibility of allowing a student to use a single course to meet both the AKNS requirement and another GER requirement. (E.g. ANS/FLPA 161X may count for both the AKNS requirement and the Fine Arts requirement.)

### Potential Problems:

- This will restrict courses to those already in the GER lists or to those that can be added according to the current guidelines.
- This will probably result in more than 5 AKNS-designated courses in the Humanities or Social Science list.

- Some AKNS courses are not classified as either Humanities or Social Science.
- This may be harder to petition, since GERs cannot be petitioned. Such petitions may require the Provost's approval or the creation of a special set of rules for petitioning the AKNS GERs.
- There may be confusion and/or disagreement on where to place cross-listed classes. This may also become a problem if/when cross-listed AKNS classes are petitioned.

### **Option 3: Create a new AKNS category within the GERs**

This will take away the "wild card" category in the GERs. The categories will now be 6 credits of Social Sciences, 3 of Humanities, 3 of Fine Arts, and 3 of AKNS.

#### **Merits:**

- All Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and (most) Baccalaureate students will be required to take such a course.
- This will sidestep the "must clearly fit in the Humanities, Social Sciences, or Fine Arts category" rule.
- This may also sidestep the "a course can only be listed in one category" rule. (E.g. ANS/FLPA 161X may appear in both the AKNS category and the Fine Arts category.)

#### **Potential Problems:**

- The rules for the AKNS group may have to be more flexible than those for the other categories. One or more of the following may have to be dropped:
  - the no more than 5 courses per acronym rule
  - the all courses must be at the 100- or 200-level rule
  - the no prerequisite other than ENGL/WRTG 111X rule
- This will likely prove detrimental to Humanities and Fine Arts since the "wild card" category, which provides the option for a second Humanities or Fine Arts course, will be taken away.
- This will de-incentivize students from taking two semesters of non-AKNS-designated language classes.
- The present understanding is that proponents of the AKNS GER are opposed to this option.

### **Option 4: Create a New Baccalaureate and Associate Requirement that can be fulfilled within the GERs**

This will include an extensive list (100- to 400-level courses) as outlined in Option 1. However, students will have the option of fulfilling the AKNS requirement within current (or extended) GERs. The catalog language will be along these lines:

As part of the GER take one of these AKNS courses:

- Courses that are approved and part of the existing GER lists will appear here.

OR

take one of these AKNS courses:

- These will be courses that do not meet current GER requirements for one reason or another. These include 300- and 400-level classes and those that

are not clearly Humanities, Social Sciences, or Fine Arts (e.g. many of the RD courses).

**Merits:**

- This may prove a satisfying compromise to those who do not want to move AKNS-designated courses to a single GER category.
- There is the possibility of double-counting an existing GER as fulfilling the AKNS requirement and another GER. (E.g. ANS/FLPA 161X may count for both the AKNS category and the Fine Arts category.)
- This may be appealing to programs that do not have room for additional requirements (e.g. Engineering).
- Students will have the option of taking AKNS-designated courses within the GER or waiting and taking an upper-division course as an elective.

**Potential Problems:**

- The wording of this in the catalog may be difficult.
- This may, in fact, not be seen as a compromise at all.