

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Proposed modifications to the Weinberg College degree requirements
Fall 2018

Background

The ad hoc Committee on Degree Requirements (CDR) was appointed in the winter of 2016 by Dean Adrian Randolph to conduct a comprehensive review of Weinberg College's degree requirements and to recommend revisions that will best serve the needs and interests of our students. The timing of this undertaking coincided with the publication in December 2015 of the final report of the university-wide Faculty Task Force on the Undergraduate Academic Experience. Moreover, a major impetus for this committee's formation was the clear call from students and faculty at Northwestern (and across the USA) for a requirement in the area of social inequalities and diversities.

Charge to the Weinberg College CDR

- Engage with faculty, students, College leadership, and others to review the College's curriculum and degree requirements.
- Develop a set of learning outcomes that capture the skill-set and mind-set that should characterize a Weinberg College graduate.
- Closely examine the current Weinberg College curriculum and degree requirements, and recommend revisions that address curricular deficiencies or opportunities for strengthening that come to light as requirements are mapped to desired learning outcomes. Particularly close attention should be paid to the general education requirements and to the proposed social inequalities and diversity requirement.

Timeline of main CDR-related activities

Fall 2017 [CDR final report](#) submitted to Dean Randolph
Spring 2018 Foundational Disciplines Convention held to articulate learning goals for each of the six foundational disciplines
Fall 2018 Proposed modifications to the Weinberg College Degree Requirements submitted to the Weinberg College Curriculum Policy Committee

For additional details see the [CDR website](#).

Major proposed modifications

1. Introduction of college-wide learning goals: *Observe, Critique, Reflect, Express*
2. Introduction of two overlay requirements: *When Cultures Meet - USA* and *When Cultures Meet – Global*
3. Restructured writing requirement: one *First-Year Writing Seminar* and one course in Year 2 or later in *Advanced Expression*
4. Modified goals for the *Fall Quarter First-Year Seminar*
5. Updated names, descriptions, and learning goals for the *Foundational Disciplines* (the 'distros')

For additional details see: [Proposal to the Weinberg College Curriculum Policy Committee](#)