

RESOLUTION FOR REMOVAL OF REQUIREMENT OF "REMOTENESS"
FOR GENERAL EDUCATION
(#22-97/98-EP)

WHEREAS, Humboldt State University's Lower Division General Education remoteness policy has distinguished unfairly, without any educational justification, between the choices available to native students and the choices available to transfer students; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt State University's Lower and Upper Division remoteness policy has led to difficult and educationally irrelevant problems for students changing majors; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt State University strongly reaffirms its commitment to the concept of breadth in general education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommend to the President that the policy regarding lower division general education (GE) be changed. The policy that states, "Where a choice exists, a student may not satisfy GE requirements by taking courses offered by the department of his/her own major" (1997-98 HSU Catalog, page 94), and the language that states, "Where options exist, you may not meet GE requirements with courses offered by the department of your major" (1997-98 HSU Catalog, page 96) should be eliminated, effective immediately.

WHEREAS, Humboldt State University's Lower and Upper Division remoteness policy has led to difficult and educationally irrelevant problems for students changing majors; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt State University's Upper Division remoteness policy has led to arbitrary groupings of majors with little, if any, educational justification; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt State University strongly reaffirms its commitment to the concept of breadth in general education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommend to the President that the policy of remoteness regarding upper division general education (1997-98 HSU Catalog, page 101) be eliminated; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommend to the President that, except as explicitly noted in Humboldt State University catalog(s), the policy for upper division general education should be that a student must complete satisfactorily nine upper division units of approved general education classes, and that the student must select at least three units from each of the areas B, C, and D; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommend to the President that Communication and Ways of Thinking courses be listed in each of the areas B, C, or D for which the course is approved; and, if completed satisfactorily by a student, such courses would fulfill the upper division general education requirement for one of the approved areas at the student's discretion.

Background Statement

Title 5, Sections 40405 and 40405.1, deal with the breadth objectives and breadth requirements of General Education. As part of the fulfillment of that requirement, students are required to take:

2. A minimum of 12 semester units...to include inquiry into the physical universe and its life forms (Area B)
3. A minimum of 12 semester units...among the arts, literature philosophy and foreign languages. (Area C)
4. A minimum of 12 semester units...dealing with human social, political and economic institutions, and behavior and their historical background. (Area D)

In addition, "9 semester units...shall be upper division level."

Humboldt State University added an additional "breadth" requirement, called "remoteness," to General Education. At the lower division GE level, this meant that a student could not take a GE course in his/her own major, unless no other option were available. (See HSU 1997-98 catalog, pages 94 and 96.)

At the upper division level, the "remoteness" requirement was even more stringent since majors were grouped in categories limiting students, particularly those in professional areas, in choosing general education courses.

At the lower division level, the "remoteness" requirement has led to a differing and unfair distinction between options open to native students and options open to transfer students.

At both the lower and upper division level, the "remoteness" requirement has led to unnecessary and educationally irrelevant problems for students who change majors.

At the upper division level, the arbitrary nature of the grouping of majors has serious flaws and little, if any, educational foundation. (See HSU 1997-98 catalog page 101.)

While resolution #22-97/98-EP removes the requirement of remoteness for general education, the faculty of Humboldt State University remain committed to the concept of breadth in general education.