

Proposed Amendment

Eliminate Item 3 of the proposed changes to the Core Curriculum.

This amendment would maintain the existing core curriculum requirement that students take *both* a two-course sequence in literature *and* a two-course sequence in history.

Justification:

The history department unanimously opposes the proposed changes to the core curriculum which would lessen students' overall exposure to global history and culture. The proposed changes cannot be reconciled with the new Strategic Plan's stated goal of "improving educational outcomes [in response to] global competitive forces" and "enhancing courses to ensure . . . that students . . . gain an understanding of other cultures [and] the global forces making this an interdependent world."

- Auburn University expects its graduates to become leaders in their chosen professions and in their communities, which, in today's world signifies global communities. Along with other departments involved in the Core Curriculum, the history department has endeavored to provide students with frameworks for understanding other cultures and global forces, as mentioned in the Strategic Plan.
- Specifically, the History Sequence uniquely teaches cultural, political, social, economic, and technological developments in chronological and comparative frameworks.
- The History sequence achieves several key learning outcomes recently approved by AU Senate and summarized by *AU Core Curriculum and General Education Outcomes Alignment Study*, including (1) informed and engaged citizenship and (2) intercultural knowledge and diversity awareness. The summary of *AU Alignment Study* clearly indicates that these goals are "well aligned with all History Core courses" (p. 5).

Removing the History sequence as a requirement would signify that potentially hundreds of Auburn students, with our Auburn brand, will annually enter into their professional and community lives, shouldering the burdens of local, national, and global citizenship, with a lessened awareness of the very global factors mentioned by the Strategic Plan and enumerated above. We believe that an understanding of history is a basic prerequisite for any university educated person in today's world. Therefore we urge the Senate and the university community to support our efforts to maintain the History sequence as a required part of the Core Curriculum.