Resolution on Registration Requirements and Prerequisites
November 2001

Preamble

English Department faculty members, along with other faculty members from across campus, have been concerned for some time over problems that occur when students disregard both registration requirements for foundations courses and prerequisites as they move through their sequence of courses. Members of the Composition/Rhetoric Committee are particularly concerned about the significant number of first-year students who do not or cannot enroll in English 100 during their first two semesters as required, resulting in a backlog of sophomores who have yet to take the course. Because the registration software system does not enforce registration requirements or prerequisites, there is no way to enforce the first-year requirement for English 100. Nor does the registration software system allow departments to know how many students have attempted to enroll in a course without success—knowledge that would allow departments to monitor enrollment and adjust the number of sections offered accordingly. Recognizing our responsibility for curriculum issues, committee members have formulated the resolution below on the enforcement of registration requirements and prerequisites. This issue becomes even more significant given the changes in the core that call for a closer attention to prerequisites.

Resolution

Whereas English 100 is a foundational requirement, and it is important for students to fulfill that requirement within the first two semesters as specified in the catalogue; and

whereas the knowledge that students learn and the abilities they develop in English 100 help them to succeed in other core courses and in writing-intensive courses; and

whereas English 100 is a prerequisite to all other English courses;

therefore, be it resolved that

appropriate members of the UHM administration enforce the first-year requirement by automatically registering for English 100 second-semester freshmen who have not completed the English 100 requirement in their first semester; and

UHM administrators immediately address the limitations of the current registration software system that keep prerequisite requirements from being enforced and that fail to provide information to track the number of students who attempt to enroll after the course has reached its limit; and

the administrators inform students at the time of registration that registration requirements and prerequisites will be enforced.

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