



## End of Season IAI and Panel Updates: Fall 2021 Season

### **Overall Reminders for Institutions & Course Submitters:**

- If a course is returned due to a prerequisite issue: 1) Please note that you will have to work with Krista to change what is listed in the system/database for the course before resubmitting as this information can only be changed by IAI Administrators. 2) If possible, please also submit evidence showing that a prerequisite has been removed/changed or is in the process of being changed in the institutional course catalog.
- A representative instructor syllabus must be submitted for panel review; institutional master syllabi and/or departmental templates are not acceptable as they do not include all the information required by the IAI panels. If both are supplied, be sure that the content, student learning outcomes, etc. referenced in each are the same and agree and complement each other. If they do not, the course will not be approved, and the panel will require the syllabi be aligned before resubmitting for further review by the panel.
- The topical outline for any submission must be a detailed weekly topical outline that goes beyond chapter numbers and titles to include topics discussed and covered in class discussions, readings, assignments, and labs as appropriate.
  - The science panels all require detailed description of the activities that students will be engaged in during EACH lab period. Descriptions should include all delivery modes of the labs (ex. Face-to-face and online). Description of the labs must include the time spent on each lab. The type of activity (e.g., hands-on, computer simulation, field trip) must be clear from the lab description. A short summary (few sentences or bullet points) of each lab must also clearly list: 1) Lab topic, 2) Lab activities, 3) Materials & equipment used, and 4) Analyses & writing performed for each lab.
- If an instructor is using open access resources rather than a published textbook, be sure the syllabus or additional documentation includes working URLs, sample articles, etc.
- When submitting Calculus courses to either the GECC Math or Math Major panel, the entire Calculus sequence (I, II, & III) for the institution must be submitted to the panel at the same time.
- All courses submitted to the Psychology Major panel must have the required topic of research methods included and adequately covered within the course.

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### **GECC Panels:**

#### GECC Communications

The panel continues the process of making changes to their speech and writing descriptors and course approval criteria via a series of special meetings. The panel discussed their progress on revisions for the identifiers and have decided to continue their work through the spring 2022 semester. The panel seeks to finalize these changes in the spring meeting to be effective in the fall 2022.

In addition, the panel is discussing if it would be helpful to develop a separate identifier for the online speech course. This will also be discussed in the spring meeting.

#### GECC Humanities & Fine Arts

The panel is looking at updating the philosophy descriptors. This will be discussed at the spring 2022 meeting. Any revisions will be effective for the fall of 2022. The panel will also discuss new descriptors, such as ASL as a foreign language, at the spring 2022 meeting. If approved, they will be available for the fall 2022 new submissions.

#### GECC Life Sciences

The panel has completed the process of making changes to its course approval criteria particularly with regards to science process skills. The highlighted information in the posted criteria document has been added and enhanced. [Panel Documents and Criteria Page.](#)

- The panel is considering changes to the LP900/L and LP901/L Interdisciplinary Physical & Life Science descriptors and will revisit again at the spring '22 meeting. Panel needs time to determine the minimum biological content, including if ecology and evolution should be expected, that should be required for approval under these descriptors. It may also be appropriate to have Physical Sciences panel provide feedback on the descriptors as well since the content between the courses should be balanced 50% biological content and 50% physical sciences content.
- The panel will continue to discuss the evolving topic of virtual labs. It is something the panel recognizes will remain an issue even after the COVID exceptions cease as institutions continue to utilize online course content moving forward. However, the panel is concerned with the limited and/or decreased amount of time spent doing hands-on labs compared to simulated labs, watching videos, and doing field trips.

#### GECC Mathematics

The panel discussed the M1903, M1904, and M1900B descriptors. No changes were made to M1903 and M1904 at this time but may revisit in spring '22 after the panel has further information regarding the law(s) about prerequisites and placement. With regards to the M1900B descriptor, the panel discussed possibly removing the “more than one variable” and “integration by parts” clauses, but determined that stakeholders need to be consulted (e.g., ISBE requirements for Teacher Ed majors, university faculty, ISMAA, etc.) before removing these. Panel members also suggested that this course sequence may no longer be offered at most public universities due to changes made by ISBE for teacher licensure.

#### GECC Physical Sciences

The panel is looking into developing a sample syllabus and sample syllabus and outline for their panel documents page. Work will continue to create these in the spring '22 semester. Once created, they will be posted to the panel's document page at:

<https://itransfer.org/submitters/panelrelateddocuments/geccphysicalsciences.php>.

A new descriptor was approved by the panel and is available for submissions for new courses in the spring of '22. Institutions should review courses approved in other descriptors and see they might be suited for the new “Introduction to Weather and Climate” descriptor. If so, the course(s) should be submitted as new to the new identifier. The course will remain approved in IAI under the previous identifier while the institution and panel work on the new approval. The new descriptions are:

#### **P1 910: Introduction to Weather and Climate (3-5 semester credits)**

Examines basic principles of weather and climate systems. Includes such topics as solar radiation, clouds, precipitation, weather forecasting, severe weather, climate change, and the impacts on society.

**P1 910L: Introduction to Weather and Climate** (3-5 semester credits)

A laboratory class that examines basic principles of weather and climate systems. Includes such topics as solar radiation, clouds, precipitation, weather forecasting, severe weather, climate change, and the impacts on society.

GECC Social & Behavioral Sciences

The panel will begin working on description revisions in the spring semester. The panel chooses to look at history course descriptions first.

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**Major Panels:**

Agriculture

The panel is putting a pin in the separation of lab courses from the descriptors currently. The panel will touch base in the spring.

Art

The panel clarified the requirement of 6 studio contact hours in the criteria document and checklist. The panel confirmed that sketchbooks are strongly recommended for every course in the sequence. The panel requires contemporary and historical reference be clearly stated in syllabi submitted to the panel. The course descriptions were revised and the current descriptions are posted on the site at: <https://itransfer.org/courses/majors/art/artaa.php>.

Biology

The panel continues to discuss the addition of the Anatomy and Physiology descriptor for the biology majors. A cadaver and non-cadaver version may be necessary and would require system designations to allow for institutions to submit courses to the correct course. The panel continues to discuss online courses and labs as institutions have experienced success with the format in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Business

No updates this semester.

Chemistry

The panel discussed the minimum number of lab contact hours expected for courses in the major. The panel members are discussing this topic with their institutions and will explore it further in the spring. The panel discussed some revisions to CHM 911 & 912, and this will be explored further this spring as well.

Computer Science

The panel discussed the prerequisite to CS 911 and CS 912 in relation to Python courses. The discussion was tabled for now but will be revisited in the spring. The panel is discussing whether CS 915 and M1905 are truly different courses and if the panel needs to retain the CS 915 descriptor. This was tabled for further discussion in the spring.

Criminal Justice

There are no updates from the panel this season.

Early Childhood Education

Panel indicated a need to remind institutions that submitted Lifespan courses will not be approved under the ECE 912 Child Growth and Development descriptor due to inadequate coverage of the early years.

### Engineering

The panel tweaked the “Reasons courses not approved” section on the panel criteria document posted on the site at: <https://itransfer.org/submitters/panelrelateddocuments/egr.php>. Minor revisions were made to **EGR 944 - [Combined] Statics and Dynamics**. The panel may make updates to EGR 931/L in the spring. Currently, the panel does not feel that Technology Engineering is a transferrable degree program in Illinois. The consensus was that at this time, this is not something that can be supported within the state's current institutional requirements.

### Mathematics

The panel discussed the Calculus sequence and made a small revision/clarification to "the calculus of the trigonometric functions" section to now be "the calculus of the trigonometric **and inverse trigonometric** functions."

### Media & Communications Arts

Members are going to work on drafting two proposed descriptors for “Introduction to Multimedia” and “Media Literacy.” They will also scan the public universities to see which ones offer the course and ensure that it's being offered as a lower-level major course at most of the public universities. The panel also briefly discussed the possibility of revising the current MC 922 descriptor to be more of an intro to multi-media course. All of these things will be discussed further at the spring '22 panel meeting.

### Physics

The panel made a few revisions to their course approval criteria document indicating that labs should include experimentation using equipment and data collection & analysis. The panel also clarified some information on certain lab activities that may not count in contact hours for labs. This can be found in the checklist section of the criteria document under “Laboratory Contact Hours.

### Political Science

There are no updates from the panel this season.

### Psychology

The panel continues to struggle with a lack of detail in the topical outlines of syllabi submitted to the panel. Please ensure that the topical outline is detailed (beyond chapter numbers and titles) when submitting to the panel.

### Theater Arts

There are no updates from the panel this season.