

IAI Fall 2025 End of Season Panel Updates

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All GECC and Major panels reviewed the Board-revised Course Approval Criteria template and accepted the new document, with some panels making further adjustments to their discipline specific criteria section. The updated approval criteria document has been posted on each panel's iTransfer.org page and will be in effect for Spring '26 course review. Please be sure to use and/or share the new criteria documents to ensure all required syllabus components are included prior to submitting or resubmitting courses.

GECC Panels

GECC Communications

The panel discussed contract grading and established a new statement regarding this for the new course approval criteria document. A panel subcommittee was also formed to review the audience requirement number for speech courses; a decision will be made by the full panel in 2026.

GECC Humanities & Fine Arts

The panel decided to emphasize the **writing requirements** in the "Common Reasons Submissions Are Returned for Additional Information" section, to help clarify frequent writing-related issues.

The HFA/SBS subcommittee's work on the review of all history descriptors continues.

- The following descriptors were reviewed and found satisfactory, requiring no revisions at this time: **S9200/H2904, S9201/H2905, S9202/H2901, S9203/H2902, S92912N/H2906N, S92913N/H2907, and S2921/H2912N.**
- The working group is continuing its review of **S2904N/H2910N, S2905N/H2911N, and S2920N/H2903N** to determine if revisions are necessary.
- The panel agreed to **end the S2922/H2908 National Histories descriptor** (same descriptor but coded separately for the GECC Social & Behavioral Sciences panel and GECC Humanities & Fine Arts panel) effective **August 1, 2026**. All schools that currently have a course approved for this code will officially be notified via memo in January.

GECC Life Sciences

The panel decided to add the following language to the L1902/L descriptor “*no more than 50% of course content should be related to the survey of animal taxonomic groupings.*” The descriptions were updated on the website at:

[Life Sciences Course Descriptions | iTransfer](#) and the database descriptions at: [L1902](#) and [L1902L](#). The panel also discussed other descriptors such as L1903/L Microbes & Society, L1901/L Plants & Society and decided not to proceed with this revision on these courses at this time.

Panel members ask that when selecting the three sample labs to submit when using a customized lab manual, to ensure the chosen labs clearly demonstrate the inclusion of integrated science process skills. The panel is receiving a lot of labs which demonstrate basic science process skills only. More information regarding science process skills is included in the panel’s course approval criteria at

[GECCLifeSciencesPanelDocumentSpring 25FINAL.pdf](#).

GECC Mathematics

The panel has created a **new Data Analytics course descriptor** titled *Introduction to Data Science* (3 semester credit hours) as follows:

M1908: Introduction to Data Science (3 semester credits)

This course introduces the principles of data science with emphasis on mathematical reasoning, interpretation of data, and the responsible use of algorithms in society. Students will learn how to collect, visualize, and interpret data, make statistical inferences and predictions, and understand the role of randomness, correlation, and causation. No prior programming experience is required; basic coding will be taught within the course. Prerequisite: A student in this course should be college-ready in mathematics as assessed by local institutions (for example: Intermediate Algebra with a C or better, placement, co-requisite course, multiple measures, transitional mathematics competencies, PMGE, or professional organization recommendations, etc.)

NEW COURSE! - Created 10/31/2025 - Available for submission in Spring 2026.

The panel also made some changes on the course approval criteria for M1903 - Mathematics for Elementary Teaching I and II submission information and the requirement of all syllabi at the same time for sequential courses in their panel specific area.

GECC Physical Sciences

No updates beyond the new standardized Course Approval Criteria document.

GECC Social & Behavioral Sciences

The panel continues to discuss what is meant by formal writing within the panel's expectations. This will continue to be a discussion for the panel moving forward. For now, the wording of the writing requirement section was revised to read:

Writing Requirements

Writing information should be detailed and included either as separate document or a clear section of the syllabus. Writing must be present in assessed components of the course for IAI approval that articulates an idea in a critical manner with consideration of the discipline and academic level of the course. Written components must be described in the syllabus and be clearly reflected in the grading scale. The nature and extent, breadth and scope of the writing required within the course should be meaningful and intentionally integrated with the disciplinary expectations. Writing components may include, but are not limited to: reaction papers, journals, essay questions on exams or class assignments, extended blogs/discussion posts, research papers, lab reports, and problem sets. Extended blogs/discussion posts are defined as those that are significant, and part of the assessed writing required in the course.

The HFA/SBS subcommittee's work on the review of all history descriptors continues.

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Major Panels

No updates at this time beyond the new standardized Course Approval Criteria document applies to the following Major Panels: **Agriculture, Business, Chemistry, Computer**

Science, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Engineering, Media & Communication Arts, Math, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, and Theater Arts.

The following Major Panels **do have updates** in addition to the new standardized Course Approval Criteria document:

Art Major

The panel clarified both the Health and Safety statement and Historical and Contemporary References requirement item to specify **“It must be an identifiable separate item within the syllabus as a statement, bullet, etc.”** Submitted courses will not be approved unless both of these requirements, in addition to all other required course descriptor content and approval criteria, are clearly stated in the representative instructor syllabus.

Biology Major

The panel changed the course description on page 2 under their Panel Specific Requirements section of the approval criteria document from “Anatomy and physiology of plants and/or animals” to “Anatomy & physiology of a sampling of animal **and** plant systems above the cellular level **(revised Fall ’25)**”. This change will be made to the BIO 910 descriptor and be effective for the Spring ’26 course review season. The BIO 910 descriptor will also be updated to add the “Google Docs link to suggested techniques and instruments” sentence regarding using a diversity of current techniques and instruments section. [Modern Biology Tools - Google Docs](#).

Elementary & Secondary Education Major – 1st season doing course review!

After much discussion, a few changes were made to the approval criteria to clarify the requirement for alignment to the IPES 2023, as well as what information must be included regarding observations and field experiences under the Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes section.