

## IAI Spring 2026 End of Season Panel Updates

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### Important Notes & Overall Reminders:

- Please note **anything in red font** as these are the most common reasons why a panel is not approving a course. Ensuring that these course topics and requirements are clearly stated within the syllabus will likely improve the probability of course approval, assuming all other content and panel requirements are met as well.
  - Insufficient details about writing assignments and weekly topical course outlines lacking details regarding subtopics, readings, assignments, etc. are the most common reasons that courses were not approved overall this season.
- As a reminder, all GECC and Major panels have new standardized Course Approval Criteria documents as of last fall. The updated documents have been posted on each panel's iTransfer.org page and went into effect for Spring '26 review. Please ensure that you are using current criteria documents when working on course submissions.
- Institutions shall only submit courses to panels that clearly align with a particular IAI descriptor code. While it is the preferred and primary way, IAI is just one way to articulate courses. It is recommended to check Transferology for equivalent/articulated courses if there is not an existing aligned IAI code in order to avoid wasting submitters and reviewers' time.
- There is a new GECC Math descriptor, M1 908 Introduction to Data Science, available as a submission option now. This is an exciting new option for Associate of Arts degree-seeking students to complete the GECC package math requirement!
- The GECC S2922/H2908 National History descriptor codes were discontinued at the conclusion of the Fall '25 panel season. Submissions under either code will no longer be accepted. Institutions having approved courses were notified per a memo on February 16 that they will be assigned with an end date of August 1, 2027 within the IAI database to allow for sufficient time to update catalogs and make any other necessary changes.
- In keeping with the state's standards for general education courses, all non-sequence courses with an inappropriate prerequisite (i.e. another course within the discipline) will not be approved/reapproved by an IAI GECC panel. For example, Child Psychology courses submitted for approval under S6903 with a prerequisite of S6900 Introduction to Psychology cannot be approved as an IAI GECC course.

- Do not submit a syllabus that has embedded links to the institution’s online learning management system as panel members do not have access. This situation requires the syllabus either be revised to add the embedded information or provide a separate document that pulls this required information out of the LMS to enable panel review.
- Early Heads Up: There are several courses that have not been called under the ongoing review (OR) process in well over 10 years going back to initial implementation in 1998. Nearly all overdue uncalled courses (1998 through 2021) fall under the GECC Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social & Behavioral Sciences panels primarily due to the volume of courses approved and number of descriptors available under each panel. IAI staff are in the process of creating a high priority plan to call these courses within the next year as the OR process is critical in ensuring institutional courses remain up to date and continue to align with each panel’s current descriptors and approval criteria. With that in mind, we encourage participating schools to begin looking at their databases now then start doing cursory reviews of relative course syllabi in order to identify and address potential issues, such as having an inappropriate prerequisite. Just as with any submission, the key to success is doing a side-by-side comparison between the current representative instructor syllabus and the panel’s descriptor and course approval criteria. Using this best practice model will help quickly determine what is missing, needs changed or clarified.
- Speaking of success, institutional course approval rates often improve when submitters strengthen their internal communication chain with faculty, department chairs, and administrators. Avoid the “lost in limbo” trap by sharing descriptors and approval criteria with faculty before the first submission as well as after receiving the panel’s decision when a course needs further action/changes to a syllabus before resubmitting. Sometimes faculty members need to be reminded that nothing about IAI is a secret; all descriptors, course approval criteria documents, policies and procedures, approved courses database, etc. are all public information and easily accessible on the iTransfer.org website.
- Changes to the iTransfer website are coming soon. Stay tuned for more details!

## **GECC Panels**

### **GECC Communications**

Speech Course Audience Criteria -

In an effort to address and increase accessibility for students, the panel has

revised/reduced the live audience requirements from 6 down to 3 people for the online speech courses as follows:

**Audience:**

*· All three of the required speeches should be delivered in the presence of a live audience consisting of **at least three people** whose age is 16 years or older. Determination of audience size and time is at the discretion of the institution, although a clear evaluation structure is recommended. A zero for failing to meet the audience and time requirements is not recommended.*

**GECC Fine Arts** (1<sup>st</sup> time meeting as a separate panel from Humanities)

Due to the GECC HFA panel splitting out, a [new panel Course Approval Criteria document](#) specifically for Fine Arts has been posted. Important changes were made by revising the writing requirements to clarify what is required for assignments.

**GECC Humanities** (1<sup>st</sup> time meeting as a separate panel from Fine Arts)

Due to the GECC HFA panel splitting out, a [new panel Course Approval Criteria document](#) specifically for Humanities has been posted. Important changes were made by revising the **Discipline Specific Concerns** section on page 3 regarding the foreign languages descriptors as follows:

*> If the course extends beyond a typical fourth-semester level, it should be clearly demonstrated that it remains introductory in nature and continues to focus on the acquisition and practice of the language being studied.*

This addition was the result of a number of courses coming in for the H1900 identifier that appear to be beyond the 4th semester level course. The current descriptor reads "A fourth-semester course (**or above**) in a foreign language," which means, as the description is currently structured, these courses should be accepted when they meet the panel's expectations for the rest of the description.

**As a reminder, the panel requires a cultural component integrated throughout the course beyond the everyday in order to get new and ongoing review foreign language courses approved.**

**GECC Life Sciences**

**As a reminder, integrated science process skills must be clearly evident in submitted syllabi; this is the most common reason why courses were not approved this season.**

## **GECC Mathematics**

The panel asks institutions to include information regarding any placement-type prerequisites within course submissions for all descriptor codes. The panel also decided that business-related topics and content will continue to be accepted within courses submitted under the M1 902 General Education that may also be listed as a Business Statistics major course at the institution.

## **GECC Physical Sciences**

No updates at this time.

## **GECC Social & Behavioral Sciences**

Expected Change Forthcoming: The panel is currently working on revising the S6900 Introduction to Psychology descriptor and are anticipating changes to go in effect for Spring '27 review. Changes may also be made to the Political Science descriptors as well as the S9 902D Study of Inequalities descriptor next season.

**As a reminder, prerequisites within the discipline are inappropriate for introductory general education courses approved by the panel; courses with inappropriate prerequisites will not be approved.** Institutions may need to work with their curriculum committees to remove existing prerequisites if they wish to retain the IAI GECC SBS code(s).

## **Major Panels**

- ***No updates at this time beyond the newer standardized Course Approval Criteria document (adopted Fall '25) applies to the following Major Panels: Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Criminal Justice, Elementary & Secondary Education, Engineering, Political Science, and Psychology.***
- The following Major Panels **do have updates** in addition to adoption of the new standardized Course Approval Criteria document:

### **Art Major**

The panel revised their descriptors and course approval criteria document on the **Diverse and Inclusive Historical and Contemporary Reference** and **Health and Safety** statements to clarify content expectations within syllabi and submission information. **Most courses reviewed by the panel are not approved because these required statements (i.e.. Diverse and Inclusive Historical & Contemporary References AND Health and Safety) are not clearly included within the syllabus; please work with faculty to get**

these added before submitting/resubmitting to greatly increase the likelihood of gaining course approval on the first submission attempt.

The revised statements within the descriptors are:

**Diverse and inclusive historical and contemporary references** must be an easily identifiable statement in a major section of the course syllabus (i.e. learning objectives or student outcomes) or as a stand-alone statement. This statement shall address all expectations outlined in the panel's course approval criteria and descriptor.

**A Health and Safety statement** must be an easily identifiable statement in a major section of the course syllabus (i.e. learning objectives or student outcomes) or as a stand-alone statement. This statement shall address all expectations outlined in the panel's course approval criteria and descriptor.

Revisions to the course approval criteria are:

**General topics to be included in ALL studio syllabi:**

~ The topic of Health and Safety regarding tools and materials used in the studio will be addressed in the course. A Health and Safety statement must be an easily identifiable statement in a major section of the course syllabus (i.e. learning objectives or student outcomes) or as a stand-alone statement. This statement shall address all expectations outlined in the panel's course approval criteria and descriptor. See the panel descriptors for detailed information on panel expectations for health and safety.

~ Diverse historical and contemporary references must be clearly stated in course content. Diverse and Inclusive Historical and Contemporary Reference: Connect various contemporary, historical, and multi-cultural models to this particular studio/aesthetic practice in the development of visual literacy. Diverse and inclusive historical and contemporary references must be included in course content. Diverse and inclusive historical and contemporary references must be an easily identifiable statement in a major section of the course syllabus (i.e. learning objectives or student outcomes) or as a stand-alone statement. This statement shall address all expectations outlined in the panel's course approval criteria and descriptor.

The following was also added to the CAC section

**Most Common Reasons Submissions To This Panel Are Denied:**

- Missing a Health and Safety statement. A Health and Safety statement must be an easily identifiable statement in a major section of the course syllabus (i.e. learning objectives or student outcomes) or as a stand-alone statement. This statement shall address all expectations outlined in the panel's course approval criteria and descriptor.
- Missing diverse and inclusive historical and contemporary references. Per the description: "Diverse and inclusive historical and contemporary references must be included in course content. This should exist as a separate statement within the syllabus." Diverse and inclusive historical and contemporary references must be an easily identifiable

statement in a major section of the course syllabus (i.e. learning objectives or student outcomes) or as a stand-alone statement. This statement shall address all expectations outlined in the panel's course approval criteria and descriptor.

### **Business Major**

There continues to be a problem with courses lacking coverage of business-related topics and content for courses submitted under the BUS 901 Business Statistics descriptor; most courses not approved by the panel are due to this issue. Please review the following descriptor statement with departmental faculty and administrators, then make changes to the course syllabus as necessary before submitting/resubmitting in order to greatly increase the likelihood of gaining course approval on the first submission attempt:

*Courses seeking approval under this identifier cannot be a general statistics course; the course must clearly have a focus on business applications, and they must be integrated throughout the entire course. Representative syllabi should make this clear in both the course description, outcomes, and weekly topical outline. See the panel's descriptor for a list of business applications that must be included in the course.*

The panel added a clarification to [the approval criteria document](#) on page 2 Discipline Notes section to emphasize current content concerns for the BUS 902 descriptor. **Please review course syllabi before submitting/resubmitting to ensure that the following concerns are clearly being addressed:**

**BUS 902: Computer Applications and Business Systems Concepts**

*Due to the nature of BUS 902, current business applications should be the focus of this course. The panel is seeking evidence that the content is sensitive to rapid technological change, especially regarding this course and ensures that textbook, tool versions, and terms (e.g. computers rather than microcomputers) are kept current.*

### **Computer Science Major**

There were several syllabi submitted this season that did not address the panel's newer requirement listed on the course approval criteria document: *Either provide a separate document or include within the syllabus a statement/explanation how students are evaluated on achieving the listed learning outcomes without substantial assistance (e.g., effectively restricting the use of generative AI, using proctored exams in testing centers, etc.). Please ensure that this is added to all syllabi before submitting/resubmitting to the panel for review.*

## Early Childhood Education Major

While no changes have been made to descriptors at this time, the panel may add Gateways competencies to ECE 913 and 915 in the future. FYI: Although there is no direct impact on the IAI ECE Major, INCCRRA does have a task force reviewing their competencies and credentials as well as aligning with IAI.

## Media & Communication Arts Major

Expected Change Forthcoming: The panel is currently working on updating the following descriptors this fall in order to reflect changes in the discipline: MC 901, 902, 903, and 904. These changes will be voted on at the December meeting and go into effect for Spring '27 review.

## Math Major

The panel made a revision to [the approval criteria document](#) to update the percentage of proctored work bullet on the bottom of page 2 in the **Weighting of Grading Categories and Grading Scale** to read:

- o 60% or more of the grade should be determined by proctored work

## Physics Major

The panel discussed coverage of waves across PHY 915A and 915C, then added the following topic to each descriptor as follows: "*interference and diffraction (if not previously covered).*"

Here is the full text of both descriptors and changes to their approval criteria:

### **PHY 915A** Descriptor:

A first course in thermodynamics, statistical physics, and quantum physics using calculus. Thermodynamics topics must include the concept and measurement of temperature; the first and second laws of thermodynamics; entropy; ideal gases and thermal properties; and the kinetic theory of gases. Quantum physics topics must include quantization; interference and diffraction (if not previously covered); the atom; solid state physics and conduction; nuclear physics; and elementary particle physics. Time equivalent to at least one credit hour must be spent on thermodynamics. Time equivalent to at least two credit hours must be spent on quantum physics. (Waves and other introductory quantum topics are included in this time.) At least one other topic must be covered, with time equivalent to at least 0.5 credit hours spent on it. Other topics that are appropriate for this course are relativity, optics (geometrical and physical), fluids, and gravitation. This course does not require a lab. **Note:** If this course includes labs, they must be clearly described with a detailed lab outline to include time spent on required topics.

### **PHY915C** Descriptor:

A first course in quantum physics using calculus. Topics must include quantization; interference and diffraction (if not previously covered); the atom; solid state physics and conduction; nuclear physics; and elementary particle physics.

### **Course Approval Criteria** Document:

#### **Topic Specific Concerns**

- Interference and diffraction must be covered within an institution's PHY 915A or 915C. If an institution offers a PHY 915 option, interference and diffraction must be included within either the institution's PHY 911, PHY 912, or PHY 915 option.

### **Theater Arts Major**

The panel reviewed the TA 911 Stagecraft descriptor, specifically regarding the current word "all" stated within the first sentence as it was a bit confusing when compared to the flexibility the rest of the descriptor allowed. The descriptor has been revised to remove the "all" and now reads: *"Introduces safety procedures and basic techniques across areas of technical theatre which may include scenery and property construction, tool use, scene painting, lighting, costuming, sound, backstage organization, and stage management. Laboratory experience is mandatory."*

The panel also updated [the approval criteria document](#) **Course Content** section on page 2 by adding a new requirement that guidelines/information for class workshops and lab/studio experiences for TA 911 courses should be included within the course submission materials.