

FACULTY GOVERNANCE AGENDA ITEM 22-5

Date: 1/24/2022

Submitted by: Jennifer Ball, Associate VP for Academic Affairs (x 1840)

SUBJECT: Proposal to change university mathematics general education requirement

Description: With the help and support of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the following changes are proposed to the “General Education Core Requirements” (as stated in the 2021-22 Undergraduate Catalog):

Proposed Statement: *The following course-specific core Student Learning Outcome courses are required of all undergraduate degree-seeking students (C or better): MA 112 Contemporary College Mathematics (QSR) ~~or MA 116 College Algebra (QSR)~~. This requirement will be satisfied if the student demonstrates appropriate competency as determined by the Mathematics and Statistics Department. (Additional ways to satisfy the mathematics requirement: completion, with a C or better, of any Washburn mathematics course or its equivalent numbered higher than ~~MA 116 College Algebra~~ MA 112 Contemporary College Mathematics, or an ACT score in mathematics of at least 28, or an SAT score in mathematics of at least ~~640~~ 660). MA 112 Contemporary College Mathematics does not meet the mathematics requirement for all programs.*

Rationale: By changing the current requirement of “MA 112 or MA 116” to MA 112, it is hoped that students will be encouraged to take MA 112 when it will satisfy their degree requirements. Students passing MA 116 as their first college math class will have met the university mathematics requirement and will also meet three hours of the mathematics/natural science general education distribution requirement. This simplifies and clarifies the requirement and will make consistent the application of MA 116 to general education distribution requirements. This will not change the mathematics requirement of any program. The SAT adjustment is due to the scoring changes implemented by SAT in 2016.

The members of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has provided this additional rationale regarding their belief that this change will help students reach their graduation goal.

MA 112 contains more every-day math and general quantitative reasoning while MA 116 focuses on skills students need to succeed in higher level math and/or science courses. The

Kansas Core Outcomes Group has a very detailed and specific list of items that must be covered in MA 116. The KCOG list for MA 112 is more general and allows for flexibility with topics.

Over the past two years (FA19-SP21), 73.5% of students in MA 112 finished the course with a C or better. Over this same time period, 55.7% of students in MA 116 finished the course with a C or better. Despite efforts by advisors and the Math Department, the University still has students enroll in MA 116 when their degree requirements only require MA 112. This change will hopefully encourage more students to enroll in MA 112 instead of MA 116.

Financial Implications: None

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2022

Request for Action: Approval by AAC, FS, Gen Fac

Approved by: AAC on 1-31-2022

FS on 2-7-2022

Gen Fac on

Attachments Yes No