

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Amy Nielsen, Executive Secretary
Faculty Senate

FROM: Becky Bitter, Registrar's Office

FOR: Academic Affairs Committee

DATE: 26 February 2020

SUBJECT: Proposal to Eliminate the "SCI" UCORE Designation

At its meeting on October 22, 2019, AAC reviewed and approved a proposal from the UCORE Committee to eliminate the "SCI" UCORE designation.

When the general education curriculum was revised in 2012, two courses – SCIENCE 101 and SCIENCE 102 – were proposed as a set which required students to complete both in order to fulfill the science UCORE requirement. Students could not take one of these courses and then take a BSCI or PSCI designated course to complete their science general education requirement. Over time, it became clear that this did not serve the needs of students. AAC agrees that eliminating the SCI category will benefit students and advisors.

Based on the support from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Provost's Office, and the associate deans, the Registrar's Office will begin updating the catalog to remove any references to SCIENCE 101 and 102 anywhere they occur in the schedule of studies. For example:

Current Schedule of Studies catalog presentation:

Biological Sciences [BSCI] with lab or SCIENCE 101 [SCI]¹

Physical Sciences [PSCI] with lab or SCIENCE 102 [SCI]¹

¹ To meet University and College of Arts and Sciences requirements, students must take a [BSCI] course with lab and [PSCI] course with lab or SCIENCE 101 [SCI] and SCIENCE 102 [SCI].

Revised Schedule of Studies catalog presentation:

Biological Sciences [BSCI] with lab¹

Physical Sciences [PSCI] with lab¹

¹ To meet University and College of Arts and Sciences requirements, students must take a [BSCI] course with lab and [PSCI] course with lab.

At this time, Faculty Senate review and approval is recommended, to be effective fall 2020.

February 26, 2020

Memo re: elimination of UCORE [SCI] designation

To: Academic Affairs Committee, Faculty Senate

From: Clif Stratton, UCORE Director

As a part of the UCORE renewal process, the School of Biological Sciences has renewed SCIENCE 101 [SCI] and SCIENCE 102 [SCI] with new designations: SCIENCE 101 [PSCI] and SCIENCE 102 [BSCI], respectively.

With this change, [SCI] UCORE designation no longer exists in practice. The only other [SCI] course - AMDT 210 (L) - changed its designation to [PSCI] in 2018-19.

The UCORE Committee voted unanimously on October 7, 2019 to support striking the fourth bullet below with regards to UCORE Science requirements, which currently work like this:

- All students must take a minimum of 7 credits. Those in the College of Arts and Sciences must take 8.
- All students must have one course in Biological Sciences [BSCI] and one course in Physical Science [PSCI].
- All students must have a least one lab course; students in the College of Arts and Sciences must have two lab courses.
- ~~Completion of the sequence of both Science 101 and Science 102 will fulfill the complete science requirements ([BSCI], [PSCI], and 2 labs). Note that the completion of only one course in the sequence will fulfill neither [BSCI] or [PSCI] on its own.~~

The UCORE Committee and the School of Biological Sciences both welcome this change, as the [SCI] requirement has always presented confusion to advisors and students, particularly since completion of SCIENCE 101 but not SCIENCE 102 (or vice versa) has not conferred partial fulfillment (either BSCI or PSCI) of UCORE credits.

On February 3, 2020, the UCORE voted to approve SCIENCE 101 and SCIENCE 102 for renewal (with commendation) with these different designations (PSCI and BSCI respectively).

UCORE Director will work with the Office of the Registrar to ensure that all reference to [SCI] is removed from the WSU Catalog, and will scrub the UCORE Handbook and website accordingly. The Director can also communicate this change to advisors and college leadership once AAC has approved the change.

Please direct any questions to Clif Stratton at ucore.wsu@wsu.edu