Critical Thinking-English Composition Phase-in Concluded

In October 1992 community colleges were informed that the IGETC Implementation Committee had extended the phase-in of the critical thinking-English composition requirement through the summer of 1993. Since all community colleges now have at least one course approved to meet the requirement, students will no longer have the option of taking two courses to satisfy the one-course requirement. Effective with the 1993 fall term, all students (either new or continuing) following the IGETC program who have not met the requirement should be advised to take one of the single courses approved to meet the requirement.

The Implementation Committee is aware that some students who started the two-course option may not have completed both of the required courses by the end of the summer 1993 term. The committee has decided to allow these students to proceed with the two-course option beyond summer 1993, provided that they completed at least one course in the two-course option by the end of summer 93. Although the second course may be completed anytime prior to transfer, students are encouraged to complete the second course as soon as possible.

Timeline for 1994-95 IGETC Update

The letter requesting the 1994-95 IGETC update was sent to all community college presidents and Academic Senate presidents on October 27, 1993. The segments are requesting that all IGETC course additions, changes, and deletions be submitted by December 3, 1993. This scheduling change, approved by the IGETC Implementation Committee, will provide the segments with the opportunity to conduct an earlier review and to provide community colleges with approved lists by March 31, 1994.

Unit Requirement for Laboratory Science Courses

It was brought to the attention of the Implementation Committee that several colleges have laboratory science courses on their approved IGETC list which have a unit value of only 3 semester units. The Physical and Biological Sciences area requires two courses, one of which must incorporate a laboratory. Since the total unit requirement for this area is 7-9 semester or 9-12 quarter units, the intention of faculty who approved the curriculum was that the science course with a laboratory would be at least 4 semester or 5 quarter units. The Implementation Committee reaffirmed this intent and asked that staff send a letter to those community colleges with 3 semester unit laboratory science courses informing them to verify and update their IGETC list as appropriate. A letter addressed to community college articulation officers and IGETC contact persons will be sent in February 1994. Colleges that maintain 3 semester or 4 quarter unit laboratory courses on their IGETC lists are requested to inform students that they will need another science course of 4 semester/5 quarter value to fulfill Area 5 requirements. Since most colleges do not offer 4 semester/5 quarter unit lecture courses, students who take a 3 semester/4 quarter unit laboratory course may need to take an additional laboratory course of at least 4 semester/5 quarter unit value to fulfill the Physical and Biological Sciences Requirement.


**Certification of IGETC**

In response to a request to revisit the issue of partial certification, the Implementation Committee reiterated the importance of students completing the entire IGETC program prior to transfer. The IGETC was approved by the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senate as a comprehensive program of courses which, as a whole, constitutes a solid program of general education preparation. This aspect is important for planning of community college curriculum, and it supports the concept that all community colleges should offer a comprehensive transfer curriculum. Committee members felt that the academic integrity of the IGETC would be undermined if it were taken in a piecemeal fashion.

Also, it was noted that the IGETC is available only to community college students. The IGETC curriculum does not exist in either the CSU or UC. It would, therefore, not be possible for students to continue the same pattern of courses they had started at a community college. In addition, once students have transferred, they are subject to the four-year campus's regulations governing the satisfaction of general education requirements.

**"Catalog Rights"**

The segments have received inquiries regarding "catalog rights" to IGETC. There is no provision in the IGETC for "catalog rights," either for UC or CSU. *IGETC Notes 1*, March 1991, (question #18), did clarify, however, that the segments will honor certification of coursework completed for IGETC provided that a course was on a college's approved IGETC list when it was completed. The UC and CSU will honor certification of this coursework even if the student subsequently breaks continuous attendance.

*IGETC Notes 2*, page 1, clarified that courses approved for IGETC become effective with the fall term of the academic year. If a student takes a course before it was approved for IGETC, that course cannot be certified retroactively.

The only exception to this rule is any course that appears on the initial 1991-92 IGETC lists since 1991-92 is the baseline year. Since the CSU and UC were ready to accept IGETC certifications in 1991-92, courses appearing on the 1991-92 lists can be certified even if the courses were completed prior to 1991-92. For example, if a student took an astronomy course in 1988, and the course is included on the college's 1991-92 list, it can be certified for the IGETC.

After the baseline 1991-92 year, however, courses must be taken beginning with the term that they are first included on the college's list, or thereafter, in order to be used for the IGETC. For example, if a student took an astronomy course in 1991, but the course only appears on the college's 1993-94 list, it cannot be certified prior to 1993-94.

**IGETC Certification Inquiries**

With an increasing number of community college students using the IGETC option, more and more counselors, evaluators, and community college staff have been calling the segmental offices with IGETC certification questions.

While we are happy to provide IGETC information, we are concerned about the additional workload this has created. For this reason we ask that, before calling a segmental office, you first refer the question to the IGETC "contact person" on your campus.

This person, usually the articulation officer, serves in a liaison capacity between your college and the segmental offices on IGETC matters. Since the contact person is on the mailing list for all IGETC information, he or she may be able to answer certification questions directly. If a call to the segmental offices is still needed, the IGETC contact can also assist you by ensuring that the answer is disseminated to all appropriate offices on your campus.
Using High School Courses to Meet the Language Proficiency Requirement

Several questions have been received regarding the correct evaluation of high school courses to fulfill the Language Other than English requirement of the IGETC.

The following are regulations used by the University of California in evaluating high school work in Languages Other than English:

Acceptable Courses – Two years of high school coursework in a language other than English - the two years must be in the same language.

Example: If a student takes two languages, but completes only one year in each, he/she has not met the requirement.

If a student has not completed two years of foreign language in high school, he/she can meet the proficiency requirement by completing a community college course that is equivalent in level to two years of high school, with a “C” grade or better.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Courses – Courses in languages other than English completed in the 7th and 8th grades with grades of at least “C” may be used. However, the principal of the high school from which a student graduates must certify that the 7th and 8th grade courses are comparable in content to those offered at the high school. This may be done by including the names of and grades for these courses on the student’s transcript, or by stating their equivalency on the transcript.

Validation of Less Advanced Coursework – A more advanced course may be used to “validate” a less advanced course (even if the less advanced course does not appear on the high school transcript).

Example: Spanish II in high school completed with at least “C” grades “validates” Spanish I.

Evaluation of Letter Grades – The University of California does not count “minus” or “plus” grades in computing the grade point average; only the whole grade is used. In other words, a C- grade is counted as a whole C.

Example: A student receiving C- grades in Spanish I and II meets the language proficiency requirement.

“D” and “F” Grades in Less Advanced Work – Students may clear “D” and “F” grades in less advanced work by completing more advanced work with grades of “C” or higher.

Examples: A student taking two years of the same language with grades DD and CC meets the requirement because the “CC” in the more advanced course validates the “DD” in the first level course.

Two years of the same language with grades DD and DC meets the requirement because the Ds are validated by the C grade in the most advanced class.

Two years of the same language with grades CC and DD does NOT meet the requirement because the D grade is in the most advanced course.

Repeating Courses with “D” or “F” Grades – A student may clear “D” and “F” grades by repeating the course(s) in which the “D” or “F” grades were received.

Example: If a student repeats Spanish I because of “D” grades and then gets a “C” or better, it counts as one year completed. However, the student will still need to take an additional year (Spanish II) to meet the requirement.

We have received some inquiries about certification of IGETC using courses taken at quarter and semester calendar campuses. This issue will be addressed in the next issue of IGETC Notes.