

Diversity in Undergraduate Learning Status Report, January 16, 2013

Background on Diversity Curricula Initiatives

UW spearheaded curriculum transformation – the infusion of diversity learning across the curriculum – beginning in 1992 with a grant from the Ford Foundation. This grant resulted in the creation of a Center for Curriculum Transformation in 1995. With significant external federal and private funding the Center offered annual faculty seminars, supporting the development of over 100 new or revised courses. Because of the failure of UW to adopt a diversity requirement, curriculum transformation became the primary strategy for ensuring students graduate with knowledge of diversity. This academic year, the responsibilities of the Center are shifting over to the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Hiring of faculty members with research and teaching expertise in diversity has also significantly increased the number of courses over the past several decades.

Current Status

- Over 500 courses in the catalog (all three campuses); study of undergraduate courses taught in 2011-2012 shows 23,000 spaces in over 200 courses on Seattle campus. Study abroad and other credit-bearing offerings will augment this number significantly
- Diversity Minors at both Seattle and Bothell campuses; significant curriculum infusion in interdisciplinary curricula at Bothell and Tacoma and in many units of Seattle campus (School of Social Work; Department of Geography, iSchool, health professions, for example)
- Diversity requirements in College of Education; School of Nursing; and School of Social Work
- The Honors Program offers two to three diversity courses every quarter

Proposed Activities

The Task Force on Undergraduate Learning is reviewing what currently exists across the campus and what opportunities for more diversity learning opportunities exist. Some units are considering conducting a survey of how students are currently gaining diversity expertise. Some examples:

- University Libraries is exploring the creation of credit-bearing research projects to add to existing courses; credit-bearing diversity service learning opportunities; and Librarian-taught courses in various formats
- New freshmen seminars focussed on diversity
- Scaling up the College of Engineering's PEERs (Promoting Equity in Engineering Relationships) seminar for diversity requirement credit
- Continuing to transform existing courses to focus on diversity; for example, the iSchool is sponsoring curriculum transformation seminars to infuse diversity in their courses.