

The Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC) considers University-wide policies on undergraduate academic affairs. This includes approving new degree programs and majors, reviewing existing programs as part of their regular Quality Enhancement Review (QER) cycles, approving courses for computer and oral communication competencies, and general policies that affect the undergraduate curriculum. The UPC met seven times during the 2015 – 2016 academic year.

Four new undergraduate degree programs sought and obtained UPC approval for the “explore” stage: Environment and Society (College of Social Sciences and Public Policy), Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (College of Medicine), Entrepreneurship (to be located in the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship), and Neuroscience (College of Arts and Sciences). Three new undergraduate degree programs sought and obtained UPC approval for the “implement” stage: Environment and Society (College of Social Sciences and Public Policy), Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (College of Medicine), and Public Health (College of Social Sciences and Public Policy). One new undergraduate degree major was approved: Veteran’s Bachelor of Science Nursing major within the existing Bachelor of Science Nursing degree program.

Three courses were approved for computer competency: IFS 3095 Boomers and Millennials, PSY 3213C Research Methods in Psychology with Laboratory, and CHM 1020C Chemistry for Liberal Studies. One course was approved for oral communication competency: SOW 3350 Interviewing and Documentation.

Multiple undergraduate programs went through the QER process this year. The UPC reviewed the following programs: Communication, Earth Ocean and Atmospheric Science, Physics, African American Studies, Computer Science, Theatre, Music, Communication Science and Disorders, Psychology, and Nursing. African American Studies will report to the UPC in two years with a follow-up report on UPC recommendations. The remaining programs will report back to UPC at their next QER.

The UPC approved two policy changes which were forwarded to, and approved by, the faculty senate. The first change removed the credit limit on physical education courses that may be applied to an undergraduate degree. The previous policy only allowed two credits to count toward degree requirements. The second change concerned the continuous enrollment policy. The previous policy required students to reapply for admission if they did not enroll for two or more consecutive semesters. The new policy extends this to three or more consecutive semesters.