

**Academic Standards Committee
Report for 2017-2018**

Committee Members

Andrew Bailey, CHEPS – HHP
Parthasarati Dileepan, COB – MGT
Fang Yu Hu, CAS – HIST
Irina Khmelko, CAS – POLS
Andrew Ledoan, MATH (Chair)
Manuel Santiago, CAS – CHEM & PHYS
Robert Schmidt, COB – MKT
Steven Shelton, LIB
Nur Sisworahardjo, CECS – EENGR
Emily Thompson, LIB – LIBR
Michael Thompson, CAS – HIST
Eun Young Kim, CHEPS – IARC
Sarah Hathcock, Undergraduate Student
Ajacia Wash, Undergraduate Student

Ex Officio

David Rausch, Provost Designee (Fall 2017)
Sandy Zitkus, University Registrar
Gregory O’Dea, Honors College Designee

On March 26, 2018, the Academic Standards Committee met to discuss these agendas:

1. Review Academic Standards Committee activity and results of decisions for the past five years and define role for future directions.

The Academic Standards Committee reviewed the following documents:

- a. 2012-2013 Academic Standards Annual Report
- b. 2013-2014 Motion from Academic Standards (no report found)
- c. 2014-2015 Minutes from Academic Standards
- d. 2014-2015 Proposal from Academic Standards (no report found)
- e. 2015-2016 Academic Standards and Scholarship Annual Report
- f. 2016-2017 Academic Standards and Scholarship Annual Report

These documents provide detailed descriptions of committee activity and results of decisions. The Academic Standards Committee did not have any particular question about the previous recommendations. Concerning a role for future directions, the Academic Standards Committee should provide grade distribution data and analysis to the Faculty Senate on an annual basis for continuous review. With this information, the Faculty Senate will be able to determine if there is any grade inflation, etc.

2. Collect and review grade distribution data and report on results.

The aim is to approach grade distribution reports from a different perspective than the one that is currently indicated in the UTC Factbook tables. The Academic Standards Committee has identified five types of grade distribution reports that can be used to summarize UTC grade point averages from Fall 2015 to Fall 2017. These types of reports are identified below, and the reports included in the attached Excel spreadsheet, called "Grade Distribution Report.xlsx," show the grade distribution trend lines across semester and year. The data was prepared by Office and Planning, Evaluation and Institutional Research.

- a. Summary of student grade-point averages
- b. Percentage of grades awarded by year classification
- c. Percentages of undergraduate student grades awarded by various colleges
- d. Percentages of graduate student grades awarded by various colleges
- e. Percentage of student grades awarded by various degree-granting colleges and year classification

In the Excel spreadsheet, the Academic Standards Committee treats the College of Arts and Sciences as a whole unit. It would be more useful to look at the grade distributions across the divisions of the College, according to its draft bylaws:

- a. Arts — Departments of Art, of Performing Arts (Music and Theatre)
- b. Humanities — Department of Communication, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature, Department of Philosophy and Religion
- c. Natural Sciences and Mathematics — Department of Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science, Department of Chemistry and Physics, Department of Mathematics
- d. Behavioral and Social Sciences — Departments of Political Science and Public Service, Department of Psychology, Department of Social, Cultural, and Justice Studies

It is also worthwhile to point out that, currently, the progress of first-generation college students is not recorded in any UTC grade distribution report. These tasks should be pursued by next year's Academic Standards Committee.

On May 2, 2018, at the request of the Department of History, the Academic Standards Committee considered an issue arising from the department's proposal for a new B.A. concentration in Interdisciplinary History. This concentration is designed to train students who wish to pursue non-academic careers post-graduation. The issue is that the proposal seeks to exempt students from the foreign language requirement in the B.A. degree, by replacing two years of foreign language with allied coursework. The departments Modern and Classical Literature and Languages and Humanities are most affected by the proposed concentration. The Academic Standards Committee invited representatives from History and from Modern and Classical Literature and Languages to present their viewpoints and additional information on this issue. The Academic Standards Committee brought representatives from these departments together, so that they may work to find an acceptable solution to the issue. The Academic Standards Committee did not resolve this issue for the Department of History. Thus, the proposal was sent back to the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.