

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 5/3/16

Proposal to revise standards for the use of AP for Gen Ed Lab

Current Gen Ed Lab requirement:

Currently, AP Biology, AP Chemistry and AP Environmental Science can fulfill the Lab requirement with an AP score of 3 and verification of lab activities if students take the following form, with documentation, to the relevant department: <http://www.binghamton.edu/general-education/documents/ap-ib-lab.doc>. AP Physics cannot currently fulfill Gen Ed Lab.

Rationale

The science departments asked the UUCC to reconsider this policy, based on the following:

- Due to changes in the way AP Physics is taught, the Physics Department would like AP Physics with a score of 5 to be able to fulfill the L requirement.
- Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science asked for a reconsideration of the policy that lab activities needed to be verified before allowing AP to fulfill the Lab requirement. They reported that the process is very time-consuming, especially because many students do not have the necessary information and several emails/phone calls are required with many students. In addition, departments report seeing few students who do not have the necessary lab experience in their AP classes, although it is possible that students without lab experience do not contact the department.

The UUCC met with representatives from Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Physics in December 2015. At that meeting, the group discussed the issues listed above. The science departments want to ensure that students who receive the Gen Ed L for AP work in the sciences have a lab experience equivalent to taking an introductory-level science course at Binghamton. The group recommended that the AP standard be set to the same as that for the intro-level course in each discipline. Under this plan, review of lab documentation would not be necessary because it is not required in order for students to receive the intro-level course equivalent for AP.

Proposed Revision

The recommendation is that the standard be changed to the following effective with students entering in Fall 2016:

- Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science – AP score of 4 automatically fulfills the Gen Ed L
- Physics – AP score of 5 automatically fulfills the Gen Ed L

These standards match the standards for the intro-level course in the discipline laid out in the University Bulletin (http://www.binghamton.edu:8080/exist9/rest/Bulletin2015-16/xq/6_admissions.xq?_xsl=/db/Bulletin2015-16/xsl/MasterCompose.xsl#d71e289).

Departmental contacts

Biology: Carol Miles
Chemistry: Wayne Jones, Alistair Lees
Envir. Studies: Carl Lipo, Joyce Kruger-Knuepfer
Physics: Bruce White