

Committee on General Education
DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING 300-LEVEL COURSES IN THE CUNY COMMON CORE
(PATHWAYS) AT HUNTER
9 September 2020

Be it resolved that courses at the 300-level offered at Hunter shall not be included in the CUNY Common Core portion of the General Education requirements at Hunter.

Be it further resolved that this resolution does not change the ability of 300-level courses to be used in the Hunter Focus portion of the General Education requirements at Hunter.

Rationale:

In 2013, Hunter's General Education and Graduation Requirements were mapped onto a CUNY-wide system of general education (Pathways). This mapping largely included all of the previous requirements in some way in the new CUNY Common Core and the Hunter Focus. It set foundational and broader courses primarily in the CUNY Common Core. In practice, the opportunity for students to complete upper-level courses (300) was relegated to the Concentrated Study portion of the Hunter Focus. Broadly, in Concentrated Study, students, after completing the Foreign Language Requirement, take courses, including upper-level ones, that apply toward a declared minor, second major, or certificate program. These requirements preserve a tiered system in general education at Hunter wherein lower-level courses fulfill the Common Core and upper level courses may fulfill Concentrated Study and the requirements in Writing and Pluralism and Diversity.

This situation raises the question of whether 300-level courses without prerequisites other than ENG 120 can be placed in the Common Core. The practical structure of the CUNY-wide General Education Requirement (Pathways) as currently implemented at Hunter suggests that the inclusion of 300-level courses would go against the tiered system of general education described above. Further, 300-level courses are defined at Hunter as those "of advanced college-level difficulty taken by majors and upper-division students; these are often considered to be courses in the major, offered for students clearly interested in the subject." This definition does not fit well with the outcomes defined for courses in the CUNY Common Core, which are designed for development of skills broadly applicable across disciplines.

This resolution proposes to create the policy that will answer the question of whether 300-level courses are allowed in the Common Core portion of general education at Hunter. The answer it offers is that 300-level courses are NOT allowed in the Common Core. These courses, however, remain a vital part of the Hunter Focus.