FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Curriculum Committee

FROM: Jack Kirby

DATE: October 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Curriculum Proposal #13-14-05, REVISION #1

Pre-Major Code Removal for SoFA
FINAL FACULTY SENATE APPROVAL ON 12-10-2013

I recommend approval of the attached REVISION #1 of Curriculum Proposal 13-14-05 from the School of Fine Arts.

This proposal aims to remove the Pre-Major codes for students in ALL Bachelor of Arts degrees in the School of Fine Arts. No changes to curricula, graduation requirements, or the manner in which students proceed through their programs will occur with this proposed change.

c: Dr. Christina Lavorata
Dr. Constance Edwards
Dr. Anne Patterson
Ms. Evie Brantmayer

Fairmont State University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Curriculum Committee

FROM: Jack Kirby

DATE: October 9, 2013

SUBJECT: Curriculum Proposal #13-14-05

Pre-Major Code Removal for SoFA

I recommend approval of the attached Curriculum Proposal 13-14-05. This proposal aims to remove the Pre-Major codes for students in ALL Bachelor of Arts degrees in the School of Fine Arts. No changes to curricula, graduation requirements, or the manner in which students proceed through their programs will occur with this proposed change.

C: Dr. Christina Lavorata
Dr. Constance Edwards
Dr. Anne Patterson
Ms. Evie Brantmayer

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL (Submit one hard copy and an electronic copy to the Associate Provost by the second Tuesday of the month.)

Proposal Number:	13-14-05
School/Department/Programs:	**Fine Arts: Art** (Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art); **Music** (Bachelor of Arts in Music); **Communication and Theatre Arts** (Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Bachelor of Arts in Theatre)
Preparer/Contact Person:	Anne L. Patterson
Telephone Extension:	304-367-4897
Date Originally Submitted:	October 2013
Revision (Indicate date and label it Revision #1, #2, etc.):	Revision #1 October 23, 2013
Implementation Date Requested:	Registration for Fall Term 2014

I. **PROPOSAL**. Write a brief abstract, not exceeding 100 words, which describes the overall content of the proposal.

This revision removes *Pre-[Major] codes* for students in all Bachelor of Arts degrees in the School of Fine Arts.

The proposal requires no changes to curricula, graduation requirements, or the manner in which students proceed through their programs. Sophomore reviews, including juries, portfolio reviews, and conferences will continue to determine the readiness for pursuing upper- division course work.

The assignment of Pre-major codes has proved confusing and even detrimental in the years since the inception of their usage, and this proposal aims to rectify the situation.

II. **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL**. Provide a response for each letter, A-H, and for each Roman Numeral II–V. If any section does not apply to your proposal, reply N/A.

A. Deletion of course(s) or credit(s) from program(s)

N/A

Total hours deleted. _____

B. Addition of course(s) or credit(s) from program(s)

N/A

Total hours added. _____

C. Provision for interchangeable use of course(s) with program(s)

N/A

D. Revision of course content. Include, as an appendix, a revised course description, written in complete sentences, suitable for use in the university catalog.

N/A

E. Other changes to existing courses such as changes to title, course number, and elective or required status.

N/A

F. Creation of new course(s). **N/A**

For each new course

1. Designate the course number, title, units of credit, prerequisites (if any), ownership (FSU or shared) and specify its status as an elective or required course. If you are creating a shared course, attach a memo from the Deans of the affected Schools explaining the rationale for the course being shared.

2. Include, as an appendix, a course description, written in complete sentences, suitable for use in the college catalog.

3. Include, as an appendix, a detailed course outline consisting of at least two levels.

4. In order to meet the requirements as outlined in Goal One of the Strategic Plan, please include Outcome Competencies and Methods of Assessment as an appendix. Examples are available upon request from the Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

G. Attach an itemized summary of the present program(s) affected, if any, and of the proposed change(s).

Present degree programs for which we propose to drop the "Pre-[Major]" designation include the following:

Art: Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art

Music: Bachelor of Arts in Music

Communication and Theatre Arts: Bachelor of Arts in Communication; Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Describe how this proposal affects the hours needed to complete this program. Specifically, what is the net gain or loss in hours? Use the format for Current and Proposed Programs in Appendix A.

N/A

III. **RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSAL**.

Along with requirements for (1) a formal Sophomore review, (2) an overall 2.0 GPA at the end of the Sophomore year, (3) a grade of "C" or better in every course taken for the major at the end of the Sophomore year, (4) an overall GPA of 2.0 to qualify for graduation, and (5) a grade of "C" or better in every major course to qualify for graduation, the "Pre-[Major]" code for Fine Arts majors was intended to raise the bar on performance in the disciplines.

In the years since the codes were added, the Sophomore reviews have become thoroughly embedded in departmental life. The reviews, which include an examination of overall Grade Point Average and of individual course grades, provide the barrier needed when students are unprepared to proceed into upper-division work.

The "Pre-[Major]" codes in Fine Arts, meanwhile, have proved nothing but problematic. At the State level, the numbers of majors in Arts fields are regularly miscounted. This year, for example, the Department of Art was notified that its degree program is in jeopardy because of having "too few majors." A local count of majors revealed that confusion about how to regard "Pre-Art" students at the Higher Education Policy Commission had resulted in a count that was grossly inaccurate.

Registration, recruitment, graduation, and identification of majors have all suffered difficulties attaching to the notion that one is majoring in, for example, "Pre-Music."

Dropping the "Pre-[Major]" code is a simple solution.

A. **Quantitative Assessment**: Indicate the types of assessment data, i.e., surveys, interviews, capstone courses, projects, licensure exams, nationally-normed tests, locally developed measurements, accreditation reports, etc., that were collected and analyzed to determine that curricular changes were warranted. Quantitative data is preferred.

N/A

B. **Qualitative Assessment**: Based upon the assessment data above, indicate why a curricular change is justified. Indicate the expected results of the change. Be sure to include an estimate of the increased cost, or reduction in cost of implementation. FOR EXAMPLE: Will new faculty, facilities, equipment, or library materials be required?

N/A

IV. Should this proposal affect any course or program in another school, a memo must be sent to the Dean of each school impacted and a copy of the memo(s) must be included with this proposal. In addition, the Deans of the affected schools must sign below to indicate their notification of this proposal.

N/A

By signing here, you are indicating your college's/school's notification of this proposal.

College/School	Dean	Signature

V. Should this proposal affect any course to be added or deleted from the general studies requirements, a memo from the chair of the General Studies Committee indicating approval of the change must be included with this proposal.

N/A

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

Historically, the "Pre-Music" "Pre-Art," "Pre-Communication," and "Pre-Theatre" designations were intended to safeguard the quality of the programs. Students were required to meet certain criteria in order to have "Pre-" dropped from their degree program and take upper-division courses. The dropping of the "pre-" categorization indicated that the student was ready to proceed in the program and, ultimately—upon successful completion of course work—to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art, Music, Communication, or Theatre Arts.

In succeeding years, the faculty members in the disciplines have led students to focus on the rigorous Sophomore Review and the *consistently strong* academic work that it demands. Submission of an extensive portfolio, a jury, and an interview/review with the full department faculty is required. Upon successfully meeting the standards set for the end of the Sophomore year, including an overall GPA requirement of 2.0 *and* a grade of "C" or better in every course taken for the major, students progress to upper-division classes. Those who still need to meet certain criteria are granted the following academic year to bring their performance up to the standard.

So, while the codes were established with good intentions, the *removal* of the "Pre-" status from a student's course of study in a Fine Arts discipline is not the incentive it was once thought to be. As stated above, these codes have created a lot of confusion. We think it is time to retire them.

CATALOG LANGUAGE

Dropping the Pre-[Major] codes will necessitate edits to the language of the current (2013-2014) catalog. Page 111 of the current catalog should be revised as follows under the heading "Admission to School of Fine Arts Degree Programs." Changes are in italics.

Entering students in the School of Fine arts are assigned one of the following major codes:

Art
Communication
Music
Theatre

To remain in a B.A. degree program in the School of Fine Arts, students must*, by the end of the sophomore year,*

- ***Pass an end of year jury or portfolio review;***
- ***Maintain a 2.0 overall GPA; and***
- ***Earn a "C" or better in every course for the major.***

On page 111, the introduction to the Art program should be amended as follows:

Entering students in the Department of Art are assigned an Art major code. To remain in the B.A. degree programs in the School of Fine Arts, students must, by the end of the sophomore year,

- **Pass an end of year jury;**
- **Maintain a 2.0 overall GPA; and**
- **Earn a "C" or better in every course for the major.**

On page 113, the introduction to the Music program should be amended as follows:

Entering students in the Department of Music are assigned a Music major code. To remain in the B.A. degree programs in the School of Fine Arts, students must, by the end of the sophomore year,

- **Pass an end of year jury;**
- **Maintain a 2.0 overall GPA; and**
- **Earn a "C" or better in every course for the major.**

On page 115, the introduction to the Communication Arts and Theatre programs should be amended as follows:

Entering students in the Department of Communication Arts and Theatre Arts are assigned a Communication Arts or Theatre Arts major code. To remain in the B.A. degree programs in the School of Fine Arts, students must, by the end of the sophomore year,

- **Pass an end of year jury;**
- **Maintain a 2.0 overall GPA; and**
- **Earn a "C" or better in every course for the major.**