



Cover Sheet for New Undergraduate Curriculum Proposals

Date: 2/5/2021

Proposal Number:

(Assigned by the Registrar)

Department: New Student and Family Programs / Academic Success Center
Current Course or Program ID: UNIV 150

Contact Person: Jason Lucas

Proposal Category: (✓ all that apply). A separate cover sheet must be submitted for each proposal.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Prerequisite Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change to Catalog Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Title Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor Change to Course
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion	<input type="checkbox"/> New Course
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Number Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Credit Hour Change	<input type="checkbox"/> New or Discontinued Program (Major, minor, or certificate)
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Syllabus Change	

Other Proposal Requirements: (✓ as applies and attach form)

<input type="checkbox"/>	For New Course Proposals, attach the New Course Proposal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	For New or Discontinued Majors or Certificates, or significant changes in program requirements contact the SCHEV liaison, the Assistant Provost for Academic Operations, to compose and attach the proposal in SCHEV format.

Proposal Description with Rationale: For changes in catalog entries or syllabi, include the current language and use track changes to indicate proposed changes. Explain why the change is desired.

Course Prerequisite Change

As currently written the course prerequisite states: *“Fewer than 24 RU hours attempted and cumulative GPA below 2.00.”*

Proposal to change the prerequisite to the following: *“Cumulative GPA below 2.0 or entering Radford University academically at-risk or department approval.”*

Rationale:

Students below a 2.0 cumulative GPA with attempted credits more than 24 are still at-risk. The successes of UNIV 150 in the past was limited to one semester. Students in academic recovery desperately need continued support until off academic probation. Campus resources are not as effective as meeting twice a week with an instructor and a peer mentor along with a grade attached to that engagement.

This course would also be for entering at-risk students without Radford University credits. This course would provide support for our entering academically at-risk students based on high school GPA, SAT/ACT score, etc.

This continued and immediate support through UNIV 150 would increase retention not only from one semester to the next, but for as long as the student is at Radford University and still in academic recovery.

Effective Date: Fall 2021

Change to Catalog Description

As currently written the Catalog Description reads, *“This course is designed to support academically-deficient students in their quest to return to good academic standing. Using structured exercises, reading assignments, self-reflection, and presentations, students will establish realistic academic goals, learn strategies through which those goals can be achieved, and become familiar with campus resources available to support their ambitions.”*

Proposed Catalog Description Change: *“This course supports and develops students in academic recovery and academically at-risk students. Using structured exercises, reading assignments, self-reflection, lectures, and classroom activities, students will establish and develop varying academic goals. Students will learn, develop, and implement strategies to achieve personal and academic comprehension. Depending on context, the course offers strategies either for students in initial stages of academic recovery or for those in continuing stages of academic recovery.”*

Rationale:

The phrase "academically-deficient" used in the current catalog description sets both the student and the course in a negative context. This term also restricts the type of student who can benefit from the course. Changing the course description to include both students in academic recovery and incoming students identified as being at-risk will better encompass the purpose and goals of the course as both an initial and continued support for students.

Effective Date: Fall 2021

Minor Change to Course

Proposal to make UNIV 150 repeatable for credit

Rationale:

As currently written, UNIV 150 is only available for students to enroll and receive credit one semester. Current university resources and initiatives are unable to hold these students accountable, so these at-risk students require additional support in subsequent semesters through UNIV 150. UNIV 150 would be able to continue supporting these students in academic recovery and hold students accountable with a course grade. UNIV 150 needs to be repeatable for credit as long as the student is on academic probation (below a 2.0 cumulative GPA). This would be for a maximum of 4 credits.

Much like other repeatable courses available at Radford University, (e.g., DANCE 201, ENGLISH 410, MUSIC 164, UNIV 190, and UNIV 200), UNIV 150 fosters the development of fundamental to intermediate and advanced skills. These academic success skills are critical to short and long term achievement and the continued retention of these at-risk students. The UNIV 150 course is individualized for student success skills necessitated, goal setting, and achievements for the semester. Continuing this support (through a repeated UNIV 150 course for credit) would resume and advance these proficiencies in subsequent semesters, until the student is no longer on academic probation or has reached the 4-credit course limit. Each repeated subsequent semester instruction would differ for each student repeating the course based on semester and long-term goals and individual requirements.

Our students in academic recovery, enrolled in UNIV 150, show significant gains in their semester and cumulative GPAs. Please see the data below for our spring 2020 cohort:

Enrolled in UNIV 150 – Spring 2020				
Fall 2019 GPA Range	Average of Spring 2020 GPA	Average of Spring Cumulative GPA	Average of Fall to Spring Cumulative GPA Change	Student Count
0.0-0.49	1.54	0.88	0.70	53
0.5-0.99	2.12	1.48	0.71	54
1-1.49	2.33	1.85	0.61	94
1.5-1.99	2.53	2.16	0.42	42
Grand Total			0.62	243

Our spring 2020 UNIV 150 students had an average fall to spring cumulative GPA change of 0.62. That is significant considering half of the spring 2020 semester took place online (due to COVID-19 restrictions).

As you can see from the data above, our students in academic recovery accomplished substantial gains in their semester and cumulative GPAs. Likewise, many of these students have a way to go in their journey to an academic good standing of a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above. Depending on a student's attempted credits, students must obtain a cumulative GPA of 1.0-2.0 by the end of their spring semester in order to avoid academic suspension.

We are failing in the long-term support and retention of these at-risk students. Please see the data below concerning the fall-to-fall retention rate compared to the graduation rate for our UNIV 150 cohorts:

**New Freshmen UNIV 150 Spring to Fall Retention and 4-Year Graduation Rates
(Passed UNIV 150 with a C or Above)***

Fall 2013				
N	Retained to Fall 2014	Percent Retained to Fall 2014	Graduated	Percent Graduated
108	82	76%	18	17%
Fall 2014				
N	Retained to Fall 2015	Percent Retained to Fall 2015	Graduated	Percent Graduated
95	78	82%	14	15%
Fall 2015				
N	Retained to Fall 2016	Percent Retained to Fall 2016	Graduated	Percent Graduated
99	81	82%	23	23%
Fall 2016				
N	Retained to Fall 2017	Percent Retained to Fall 2017	Graduated	Percent Graduated
82	68	83%	17	21%
Fall 2017				
N	Retained to Fall 2018	Percent Retained to Fall 2018		
122	95	78%		
Fall 2018				
N	Retained to Fall 2019	Percent Retained to Fall 2019		
161	105	65%		
Fall 2019				
N	Retained to Fall 2020	Percent Retained to Fall 2020		
174	133	76%		

* Data provided by the Office of Institutional Research

As you can see from the data provided above, our UNIV 150 student retention rate from fall to fall is drastically higher than our graduation rate for the same cohort. We are not providing the support required to retain these at-risk students through graduation. Much like students in technique classes in Visual and Performing Arts require continued development of skills, students in academic recovery require continued development of practical skills necessary for academic success.

It is the strong belief of the Academic Success Center, by allowing these at-risk students to enroll and pay tuition at the University, we have an ethical obligation to support these students through the proven successes of UNIV 150. To serve our students in academic recovery effectively, we need to allow students to repeat the one credit UNIV 150 course; resuming and advancing proficiencies in subsequent semesters, until they are in good academic standing or a maximum of 4 credits in the course have been achieved.

Effective Date: Fall 2021