

# CCC+ Bylaw Change Proposal

2025-26

As the CCC+ has worked to implement the guidelines and bylaws for the new Common Curriculum passed at the Senate special session on 11/14/2022, committee members have come across several conditions and considerations they believe require clarification in the bylaws.

To this end, please find here proposals to change the CC Bylaw language about:

1. Repeatability of 3-credit courses
2. TOI Redesignation
3. Language Cleanup and Re-Adding Seal Of Biliteracy

## 1. REPEATABILITY OF 3-CREDIT COURSES

### **Background:**

During the process of course review for the transition from General Education to Common Curriculum (CC), the Common Curriculum Committee+ (CCC+) discovered several courses carrying Content Areas – and transitioning to Topics of Inquiry (TOIs) – that were repeatable for credit with a change in topic. This inevitably led to the question of whether or not students could retake the courses for credit to fulfill multiple Common Curriculum requirements. For example, if a course was repeatable three times for credit, could a student take the course three times to count for nine credits and use just that one course to fulfill their focus area?

After some discussion, the general consensus on CCC+ and among the leaders of other curricular groups was that students should not be allowed to count three-credit courses multiple times to fulfill CC requirements. Conversely, one-credit courses that are designated as repeatable for credit may be applied up to three times.

The reasoning behind this was to encourage students to explore the greatest diversity of areas and courses possible during the fulfillment of their CC requirements. The CC already allows most students to fulfill their focus area either within their major or minor. The group did not want to encourage further comfort zoning.

Students can, of course, continue to take repeatable courses for as many credits as their school or college allow; they just cannot use more than three of those credits toward their CC requirements.

As a cleanup item, we are also removing the hyphens from the TOIs since common usage, especially in the course catalog, has since dropped them.

### **Current Bylaw Language:**

Section II.C.2.a.

*Topics of Inquiry:* Students must pass at least three credits of coursework in each of six Topics of Inquiry (TOI): TOI-1 – Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation; TOI-2 – Cultural Dimensions of Human Experiences; TOI-3 – Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice; TOI-4 – Environmental Literacy; TOI-5 – Individual Values and Social Institutions; and TOI-6 – Science and Empirical Inquiry (Students must complete at least one laboratory course in TOI-6). At least one course must be passed in each Topic of Inquiry (some courses fulfill two). Students must also satisfy a Focus requirement, by successfully completing at least nine credits in either a single Topic of Inquiry or in a faculty-designed Theme spanning multiple disciplines. Topic of Inquiry courses may be counted toward the major.

Including Focus or Theme, students must pass at least 21 credits of TOI courses. The 21 credits of TOI courses must be from at least six different subject areas as designated by subject code (e.g., ANTH). For cross-listed courses, students may count any subject code under which the course is offered toward this requirement regardless of the subject code under which they register for the course. No more than six credits with the INTD prefix may be elected by any student to meet the Common Curriculum Requirements.

### **Proposed Bylaw Language:**

*Topics of Inquiry:* Students must pass at least three credits of coursework in each of six Topics of Inquiry (TOI): **TOI1** – Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation; **TOI2** – Cultural Dimensions of Human Experiences; **TOI3** – Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice; **TOI4** – Environmental Literacy; **TOI5** – Individual Values and Social Institutions; and **TOI6** – Science and Empirical Inquiry (Students must complete at least one laboratory course in **TOI6**). At least one course must be passed in each Topic of Inquiry (some courses fulfill two). Students must also satisfy a Focus requirement, by successfully completing at least nine credits in either a single Topic of Inquiry or in a faculty-designed Theme spanning multiple disciplines. Topic of Inquiry courses may be counted toward the major.

Students must pass at least 21 credits of TOI courses, including those in the Focus or Theme area. These credits are subject to the following restrictions and guidelines:

- The 21 credits of TOI courses must be from at least six different subject areas as designated by subject code (e.g., ANTH).
- For cross-listed courses, students may apply any subject code under which the course is offered toward this requirement, regardless of the subject code under which they register for the course.
- No more than six credits with the INTD prefix may be applied.
- Courses designated as repeatable for credit may be applied for a maximum of three credits per course.

## **2. TOI REDESIGNATION**

### **Background:**

As departments considered which TOIs to apply for during the transition, there were a few occasions where departments decided after initial approvals to change the TOIs for which a course was originally approved. Before the launch, this was not an issue. However, after the

launch, the Office of the Registrar raised concerns about how these changes would be tracked and accurately applied to student records.

Under the Content Area system, there were never any requests for changes because the CAs were more discipline-specific. The Common Curriculum allows for more fluidity in TOI selection for courses, though, so CCC+ anticipates that some departments may decide they want to change TOIs after an initial trial period.

Under the outgoing General Education system, CAs were also retroactive, meaning that, once a course was approved for a CA, anyone who took that course in the past was awarded that CA. However, in the case of changing TOIs, retroactivity would potentially allow students to receive credit for three or more TOIs, which cannot be allowed.

Logistically speaking then, courses must either be restricted from changing TOIs in order to maintain retroactivity, or, if changing is allowed, the Office of the Registrar must institute start and end dates for TOIs. The latter, in particular, could create havoc for advisors, who would then need to consider these start and end dates when working with students.

For the sake of ease then and in order to maintain retroactivity, CCC+ is proposing a by-law change that would prohibit courses from changing TOIs if they already have two. Courses with one TOI can still add a second. If a department would like to change the TOIs of a course once it has been added to the catalog, they must create a new course.

#### Section II.C.2.c

##### **Current Bylaw Language:**

A course may be approved to satisfy one or two Topics of Inquiry. Students may use a course that has multiple TOI designations to fulfill the TOI requirements for which the course has been approved, if the regulations listed in II.C.2.a Topics of Inquiry are met. Courses at the 2000-level or above may combine Quantitative and Writing Competency designations. Courses with Quantitative and/or Writing Competency designations may also be approved for Topics of Inquiry.

##### **Proposed Bylaw Language:**

A course may be approved to satisfy one or two Topics of Inquiry. Students may use a course that has multiple TOI designations to fulfill the TOI requirements for which the course has been approved, if the regulations listed in II.C.2.a Topics of Inquiry are met. Courses at the 2000-level or above may combine Quantitative and Writing Competency designations. Courses with Quantitative and/or Writing Competency designations may also be approved for Topics of Inquiry.

Once approved for two TOIs, a course may **drop but** not change those TOIs. A course with one TOI may add a second, but any course wishing to change from existing TOIs to completely different ones must do so under a new number.

### 3. LANGUAGE CLEANUP and RE-ADDING SEAL OF BILITERACY

#### **Background:**

This item proposes several inter-related changes.

On May 1, 2023, the University Senate approved the addition of the Seal of Biliteracy as a way for students to fulfill their Second Language (SL) competency requirement under Common Curriculum. This addition marked another of several ways students could fulfill this requirement without taking second language classes at UConn or transferring in such credit from other institutions.

However, this change came at a time of transition when the Senate was also considering language to change over all references of General Education to Common Curriculum. The Seal of Biliteracy proposal still had old General Education language in it, and somewhere along the way, the Seal of Biliteracy part was lost in the transition and did not make it into the most updated version of the bylaws. **The first proposed change is to re-add the already approved Seal of Biliteracy language back into this section of the bylaw.**

**Additionally, three other minor edits to this section of the bylaws are also being made to do the following:**

- 1) Correct the language to describe the Quantitative requirement as a “Competency” rather than a “Literacy”
- 2) Correct the name of the infused IDML competency from “information and digital media literacy” to “Information, Digital, and Media Literacy,” and to capitalize the names of these two competencies for consistency.
- 3) Add the words “or equivalent” to account for additional avenues of satisfying the SL requirement, such as native speakers testing out of it through LCL or a student obtaining an academic adjustment through the Center for Students with Disabilities.

CCC+ thus proposes the following amendments to the Senate bylaws:

Section II.C.2.b-c

#### **Current Bylaw Language:**

*Competencies:* The Common Curriculum includes competencies in quantitative skills, second language proficiency, and writing. Two additional competencies – information and digital media literacy and dialogue – are infused across the Common Curriculum within TOIs. Quantitative Literacy is established by completing two courses that are designated for this purpose as Q courses. One Q course must be a MATH or STAT course. Second Language Competency is established by passing either 1) the third-year high school level course in a language other than English or 2) the second semester course in the first-year sequence of college level study in a language other than English. Writing Competency is established by passing the First-Year Writing requirement (ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011) and two W courses, one of which must be in the major field of study at the 2000-level or above.

*Courses:* All courses offered for Common Curriculum credit must be recommended for approval by the Common Curriculum Committee (CCC) (see II.C.2.e, Oversight). Courses in the six

Topics of Inquiry may have only Common Curriculum courses as prerequisites and corequisites, with the exception of (a) Honors courses for which Honors student status is a prerequisite, and (b) TOI-6 courses and TOI courses that are also Writing Competency courses which may have prerequisites and corequisites that are not Common Curriculum courses.

**Proposed Bylaw Language:**

*Competencies:* The Common Curriculum includes competencies in quantitative skills, second language proficiency, and writing. Two additional competencies – Information, and Digital, and Media Literacy and Dialogue – are infused across the Common Curriculum within TOIs. Quantitative Competency Literacy is established by completing two courses that are designated for this purpose as Q courses. One Q course must be a MATH or STAT course. Second Language Competency is established by passing either 1) passing the third-year high school level course in a language other than English or 2) attaining a Seal of Biliteracy or 3) passing the second semester course in the first-year sequence of college level study in a language other than English, or equivalent. Writing Competency is established by passing the First-Year Writing requirement (ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011) and two W courses, one of which must be in the major field of study at the 2000-level or above.

*Courses:* All courses offered for Common Curriculum credit must be recommended for approval by the Common Curriculum Committee (CCC) (see II.C.2.e, Oversight). Courses in the six Topics of Inquiry may have only Common Curriculum courses as prerequisites and corequisites, with the exception of (a) Honors courses for which Honors student status is a prerequisite, and (b) TOI6 courses and TOI courses that are also Writing Competency courses which may have prerequisites and corequisites that are not Common Curriculum courses.

**Proposed Bylaw Language (Clean Version):**

*Competencies:* The Common Curriculum includes competencies in quantitative skills, second language proficiency, and writing. Two additional competencies – Information, Digital, and Media Literacy and Dialogue – are infused across the Common Curriculum within TOIs. Quantitative Competency is established by completing two courses that are designated for this purpose as Q courses. One Q course must be a MATH or STAT course. Second Language Competency is established by either 1) passing the third-year high school level course in a language other than English or 2) attaining a Seal of Biliteracy or 3) passing the second semester course in the first-year sequence of college level study in a language other than English, or equivalent. Writing Competency is established by passing the First-Year Writing requirement (ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011) and two W courses, one of which must be in the major field of study at the 2000-level or above.

*Courses:* All courses offered for Common Curriculum credit must be recommended for approval by the Common Curriculum Committee (CCC) (see II.C.2.e, Oversight). Courses in the six Topics of Inquiry may have only Common Curriculum courses as prerequisites and corequisites, with the exception of (a) Honors courses for which Honors student status is a prerequisite, and (b) TOI6 courses and TOI courses that are also Writing Competency courses which may have prerequisites and corequisites that are not Common Curriculum courses.