

**MEMO**

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<i>To</i>	General Education Committee, UCC
<i>From</i>	Todd Eisworth, Chair, UCC
<i>Subject</i>	Proposed waiver concerning FIE and BDP in BS1203
<i>Date</i>	October 2, 2022

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This memo contains a proposal for a time-limited waiver to be put in place that would allow the RN to BSN program (BS1203) to use a single 3.0 credit hour upper division course (NRSE 4570 Diversity) to meet BOTH the Foundations: Intercultural Exploration (FIE) and Bridges: Diversity and Practice (BDP) requirements in BRICKS. This is motivated by issues with how BRICKS interfaces with 2-year degree completion programs, especially those programs admitting students with completed associate degrees. The intent is to have a short-term remedy in place for this program while a long-term policy solution is developed.

### Background

Ohio University considers Intercultural Knowledge and Competence (IKC) to be a fundamental value, and IKC was adopted as a Common Goal for all our undergraduate degrees. To ensure our students meet the associated learning outcomes, OHIO’s general education program BRICKS explicitly incorporates them in two components: Foundations Intercultural Explorations (FIE) and Bridges: Diversity and Practice (BDP). In addition, FIE courses are restricted to the 1000- or 2000- level, and single courses are not allowed to satisfy both requirements simultaneously.

These restrictions are in place to ensure that students engage with these ideas in different contexts: once in a general setting early in their careers (FIE), and then a second time in a more advanced setting (BDP), hopefully within their major. This arrangement was designed with traditional students working on a 4-year degree in mind, but there are unintended consequences for students enrolled in 2-year degree completion programs.

In particular, FIE courses are required to be 1000- or 2000- level, while degree completion programs like BS1203 consist of 3000- and 4000- level courses. Such programs require previously completed coursework corresponding to the first two years of a traditional student career prior to admission.<sup>1</sup> The proposal below addresses this situation.

### Proposal

*The course NRSE 4570 Diversity should satisfy both FIE and BDP requirements in BRICKS for students enrolling in the BS1203 program through August 31, 2024.*

### Rationale

- The course NRSE 4570 is already approved for BDP and is focused on the IKC outcomes. It is 3.0 credit hours, which matches the total credit hours in BRICKS devoted to the IKC outcomes.
- We already have a blanket waiver in place for BS1203 students who enroll by the end of Summer 2022 that allows them to be governed by Tiers. The justification for that waiver is that articulation

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<sup>1</sup> This is usually accomplished by admitting students with a completed associate degree, often from a community college with whom we have an articulation agreement. Undergraduate Catalog language specifies that the BS1203 is program is available only to registered nurses.

agreements with community college partners were designed assuming that students would be governed by Tiers upon transfer to OHIO. The proposed waiver addresses an issue that will arise after the original waiver ends.

- The expiration date on the proposed waiver is chosen to allow programs ample time to adapt to whatever permanent solution is adopted by UCC.

## Notes

- An alternative to the proposed waiver would be to allow an upper division course to satisfy FIE, but to keep in place the restriction that the course cannot also satisfy BDP. This approach asks the program to either add more hours or content, or to split artificially the 3.0 credit hours of NRSE 4570 into a 2.0 credit hour FIE course and a 1.0 credit hour BDP course. The waiver as formulated seemed a more reasonable solution.
- UCC will work on getting a permanent policy in place by the end of AY 2022-23.
- Other degree completion programs may request that we consider similar waivers for their students until a permanent solution is found.