UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

Submitted by: ___Karen Rosenberg___ phone number ___302-831-1855___

Department: ___Associate in Arts Program___ email address ___krr@udel.edu___

Date: ___March 7, 2011___

Action: ___Add new undergraduate academic policy___
            (Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise
    major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

Effective term ___10F___
                    (use format 04F, 05W)

Current degree ___All UD Associate Degrees: Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS)___
                    (Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed change leads to the degree of: ___No change___
                                            (Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed name: ___N/A___
                    Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit (if applicable)

Revising or Deleting:

    Undergraduate major / Concentration: ___N/A___
                                                (Example: Applied Music – Instrumental degree BMAS)

    Undergraduate minor: ___N/A___
                                (Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

    Graduate Program Policy statement change: ___N/A___
                                                            (Must attach your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

    Graduate Program of Study: ___N/A___
                                        (Example: Animal Science: MS Animal Science: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

    Graduate minor / concentration: ___N/A___

Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.

List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations?
(Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter "None")

None

Explain, when appropriate, how this new/revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education: http://www.ugs.udel.edu/gened/

This proposal is not a revision to a curriculum. It is a proposal to add a new undergraduate academic policy relating to special recognition at the time of Associate Degree conferral, for top students in the graduating class. The intent of the proposed policy is to reward students who excel in their studies for the Associate Degree.

Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:
(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter "None")

All UD Associate degrees would be affected. Associate degrees are currently conferred by the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Education and Public Policy. This proposal originated with the Associate in Arts program within the college of Arts and Sciences. Letters of support from the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Education and Public Policy will be requested if this proposal is approved by the college of Arts and Sciences, before it is sent to the University Faculty Senate.

Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):
(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

Under current UD policy, the top Bachelor degree recipients in each graduating class earn academic recognition at graduation. Such honors are determined by a combination of cumulative GPA and rank in class, as follows:

STRIVE FOR ACADEMIC HONORS AT GRADUATION

The top students in each graduating class receive special recognition in the form of academic honors. The following rules for honors apply:

- Summa Cum Laude. The top 1 percent of the students of each undergraduate college's graduating class will receive the degree Summa Cum Laude, providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.75 at the end of his or her course of study.

- Magna Cum Laude: The next 4 percent of the students of each undergraduate college's graduating class will receive the degree Magna Cum Laude, providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.5 at the end of his or her course of study.

- Cum Laude: The next highest 8 percent of the students of each undergraduate college's graduating class will receive the degree Cum Laude providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.25 at the end of his or her course of study.

(Source: p. 68, 2008-2009 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog)

There is no analogous system of recognition for students who earn Associate degrees from the University. The Associate in Arts degree has been available at the University since the 1950s, but until 2004, only a few Associate degrees were conferred every year. That changed in 2004, when the Associate in Arts Program was created to administer the Associate degree program. Since 2004, 640 Associate in Arts degrees have been conferred by the College of Arts and Sciences, and many students have excelled in their studies and earned outstanding grades, but there is no existing mechanism to recognize the top Associate degree recipients in each graduating class. We propose to extend the same system of academic recognition for Associate degree recipients as exists for Bachelor's degree candidates.

To provide some perspective on the number of Associate degree recipients who would have qualified to date for the proposed honors, the following table presents cumulative statistics of the top students among a total of 640 Associate in Arts degrees conferred by the College of Arts and Sciences since 2004:

Cumulative GPA	Number of Students	% of Total Conferred
3.750 - 4.000	25	3.9%
3.500 - 3.749	38	5.9%
3.250 – 3.499	50	7.8%
Total	**113**	**17.7%**

Note that the percentage of Associate in Arts degree recipients who fall into each GPA catgory is greater than the percentage cap on those who would be awarded the merit designations. In other words, under the proposed percentage criteria for each rank, not all of the Associate degree recipients who have earned the minimum GPA would qualify for the graduation honors designations. Only the to 13% (1% + 4% + 8%) would qualify, as long as they had the minimum GPA. This is analogous to the recognition of top students for the Bachelor's degree.

Program Requirements:
(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and **include a side-by-side comparison** of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

N/A

ROUTING AND AUTHORIZATION: (Please do not remove supporting documentation.)

Department Chairperson _____   Date 10 March 2011

Dean of College _____   Date 11 March 2011

Chairperson, College Curriculum Committee _____   Date 11ᵗʰ March 2011

Chairperson, Senate Com. on UG or GR Studies_____   Date_____

Chairperson, Senate Coordinating Com._____   Date_____

Secretary, Faculty Senate_____   Date_____

Date of Senate Resolution_____   Date to be Effective_____

Registrar _____Program Code_____   Date_____

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & International Programs_____   Date_____

Provost _____   Date_____

Board of Trustee Notification_____   Date_____

Revised 02/09/2009 /khs