

Diversity Requirement Objectives, Criteria and Guidelines

Objectives

The purpose of Kent State University's diversity requirement is to help educate students to live in a world of diverse communities, many of which are becoming increasingly permeated with cultural and ideological differences. The study of diversity is intended to promote awareness of local and global differences, to identify shared values, to improve understanding of one's own culture and to encourage people to explore and respect differences.

The diversity requirement is part of the University's broader efforts to encourage, both at the University and beyond, the development of communities in which all members and their contributions are recognized and valued. Diversity courses provide opportunities for students to learn about such matters as the history, culture, values, and notable achievements of people other than those of their own national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, physical and mental ability and social class. Diversity courses also provide opportunities to examine problems and issues that may arise from differences and opportunities to learn how to deal constructively with them.

Criteria

Courses that satisfy the diversity requirement aim to give students significant opportunities to do the following:

- Address diversity issues, particularly those involving unequal and/or discriminatory treatment
- Compare positive and negative implications of various parochial or "...centric" perspectives
- Encourage global awareness and sensitivity
- Examine patterns and trends of diversity in the United States
- Engage issues of racial or ethnic perceptions, attitudes and stereotypes
- Examine patterns and trends of diversity in the United States
- Explore ways to communicate and participate constructively in a diverse community
- Foster appreciation of aesthetic dimensions of other traditions and cultures
- Learn systematic approaches to understanding cultural differences and commonalities
- Learn systematic techniques for dealing constructively with problems arising out of cultural differences
- Participate in special programs that promote understanding other peoples
- Study Western and non-Western cultures in a world context or from a comparative perspective
- Understand how one's own culture shapes one's perceptions, ideology and values

It is understood that not every course will address all of these criteria.

Guidelines

Emphasis

The study of diversity (as described in the objectives and criteria sections) must be a primary purpose of a course or program.

Level

Both lower-division and upper-division courses may be proposed.

Previous Offering

A course must have been offered at least once before consideration.

Disciplinary/Interdisciplinary

Courses within a single discipline as well as interdisciplinary courses may be proposed.

Foreign Language Instruction

Elementary language acquisition courses are not eligible. More advanced language courses may be submitted for consideration.

Formal Approval Process

Diversity curricular proposals must be approved by the department/school curriculum committee, College Curriculum Committee, University Requirements Curriculum Committee and Educational Policies Council.

Degree Program Approval

In some degree programs, diversity has been made an integral and pervasive part of the curriculum. If breadth and intensity of diversity across the curriculum can be demonstrated by the academic unit, program completion will serve as the equivalent of the second course in the diversity requirement.

Review Cycle

The diversity requirement and designated courses/programs are to be periodically and systematically reviewed for conformity to the Objectives and Criteria. Review by the University Requirements Curriculum Committee will occur every five years.