Intent and Purpose of General Education Core Curriculum --

***Information for an informed discussion***

***NOTE:*** Assessment of Student Learning at NMT includes:

General Education Core Curriculum

\*NMT Core

\*NMHED Articulated Courses (some are NMT Preparatory Courses)

Preparatory Courses

MATH Service Courses

Undergraduate Majors

Graduate Programs

Community Education Courses

Co-Curricular Programs

A. New Mexico Tech General Education Core Curriculum Courses serve two main purposes:

1. Provide introductory foundation in Communications (Area I), Math (Area II), Laboratory Sciences (Area III), Social Sciences (Area IV), and Humanities (Area V) applicable at all NM state institutions of higher education and therefore should/must be transferable among NM state institutions of higher education;
2. Provide introductory foundation for New Mexico Tech students and thus include courses that every NMT student must take in Communications (Area 1), Math (Area 2), Laboratory Sciences (Area 3), Social Sciences (Area 4), and (Area 5) Humanities.

B. At UNM and NMSU

At non-specialized 4-year institutions (UNM and NMSU), students typically spend their first 1-1/2 to two years taking 100-level and 200-level level General Education Core Courses [a total of 35 cr. hr. -- 9 (Area I)+ 3 (Area II) + 8 (Area III) + 6/9 (Area IV) + 6/9 (Area V)] then move into their major requirements.

C. At NM Community Colleges

Students in community colleges typically spend their two years taking general education core courses to transfer to 4-year institutions unless they get a vocational degree at the community college or complete their education (at that time) with an

Associates Degree.

D. At New Mexico Tech

NMT, as an institution specializing in STEM, virtually all students (except Associates Degrees and Bachelor of General Studies) take a more extensive General Education Core that includes the courses of point 1 that are taken at other institutions as well as courses specifically for a BS in STEM.

Thus, the NMT General Education Core curriculum is a “combination” of Gen. Ed. Core and major requirements that might be found at other institutions, for a total

of 61 cr. hr. (5 cr. hr. more in Math and 18 cr. hr. more in Laboratory Sciences).

E. Point 1 of General Education Core Curriculum and Transferring These Courses

Concerning Point 1 on the previous page, the NMHED wants to ensure that students who have paid for (taken and passed) General Education Core courses can transfer those courses; students should not have to retake and, thus, repay for General Education Core courses at other state institutions of higher education.

Rule 5 NMAC 55.3 governs the requirement of General Education Core Curriculum of 5 Areas (Area I: Communications; Area II: Mathematics; Area III: Laboratory Sciences; Area IV: Social/Behavioral Sciences; Area V: Humanities and Fine Arts) and the transfer of these courses between New Mexico Public Post-Secondary Education Institutions.

F. “Articulated” Courses and the New Mexico Common Core Numbering System

In Area 1, two NMT requirements, ENGL 111 and ENGL 112, have a number specified by the New Mexico Common Core Numbering System (NMCCNS), meaning they are “articulated” and must transfer between New Mexico state colleges.

In Area 2, NMT requirements, MATH 131 and MATH 132, have a number specified by the New Mexico Common Core Numbering System (NMCCNS), meaning they are “articulated.”

MATH 101, MATH 103 and MATH 104 are also articulated; however, at NMT, these courses serve as elective credit and not for General Education Core. (However, if an NMT student takes this course and transfers, it will count as General Education Core at other state colleges.)

In Area 3, the Physics and Chemistry courses required of all NMT students (PHYS 121 & 121L, PHYS 122 & 122L, CHEM 121 & 121L) have numbers specified by the New Mexico Common Core Numbering System (NMCCNS), meaning they are “articulated” and must transfer between New Mexico state colleges.

Additional NMT Area 3 courses that are “articulated” are: BIO 111 & 111L and BIO 112 & 112L.

NOTE: The “additional” 8-credit hours required at NMT in Area 3 are considered “elective,” but in reality, many of these courses double as Core and Major Requirements.

In Area 4, all courses are elective. Articulated courses are: ECON 251, ECON 252, PS 171, PSY 121, ANTH 101.

In Area 5, all courses are elective. Articulated courses are: HIST 141, HIST 142, HIST 151, HIST 152, ART 272, MUS 105, MUS 110, SPAN 113, SPAN 114, FREN 113, FREN 114, COMM 242.

Area 6 is a combination of Area 4 and Area 5.

G. Discussion of NMT Gen. Ed. Core Requirement in Area 3 of the Additional 8 Hours of Laboratory Science:

The reason for the additional 8 hours has changed from its original intent, and, importantly, our Area 3 does not comply with legislature about Area 3 for the Gen. Ed. Core.

For example:

If our students take CHEM 109 and transfer it to another state school, it will count for Area 3. However, we do not accept our own course here that will count elsewhere.

In addition, if a student takes a course other than BIOL, ERTH, or Engineering at another state school and it has an associated lab, it counts for Area 3.

We offer Laboratory Science courses at our institution, for our own students, that are 100-level, but we do not count them for Area 3.

In Addition: The “Additional 8 hours of Laboratory Science” serves to fulfill Major requirements for all majors, except for CHEM, PHYS, TC, MATH and MGMT majors.

Thus, those 5 majors are truly the only majors taking an additional 8 hours of Laboratory

Science that is only for Gen. Ed. Core.

In addition, and against legislation, we are not accepting these valid Laboratory Science courses taken at other state institutions as the 8 additional hours of Laboratory Science

and are delegating these as elective credit.

Further, most majors who are using the 8 Additional Hours of Laboratory Science General Education Core Requirement to fulfill Major Requirements are not assessing

those courses for student learning as General Education Core Courses (they are assessing them as Major requirements).

H. Two Possibilities for Making NMT Compliant with Rule 5 NMAC 55.3:

1. Continue to require the 8 additional Laboratory Sciences credit hours as General Education Core Courses, but allow these to be courses in *any major* that offers a Laboratory Science Lecture with associated Lab.

This allows all transfer Laboratory Science courses to count for the 8 additional hours

This allows *all* of NMT’s laboratory science courses (lecture with associate lab) to count for the 8 additional hours.

This keeps our 26 hours of Laboratory Science requirement for Area 3.

**All majors with Laboratory Science courses would need to assess those courses as General Education Core Courses as well as assess them as UG Program (Major) requirements.**

1. Move this requirement out of the General Education Core Requirements and allow each department to require these 8 credit hours in the manner that best serves their majors and their department mission.

As most Majors are using these courses are Major requirements, this would not affect them at all, EXCEPT that they would NOT be required to assess these courses as Gen. Ed. Core.

NMT’s General Education Core Requirement for Area 3 would be changed to 18 hours (rather than 26 hours).

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