

Curricular Complexity Heuristic

DEPARTMENT:

PROGRAM:

SUBMITTED BY:

Questions to consider as program curriculum is reviewed:

Prerequisite Courses

1. Are there prerequisites or co-requisites for courses in your program?
2. What is the evidence that the prerequisites/co-requisites are needed?
3. Are any of the prerequisite courses considered “weed out” courses? Why is this approach used?
(Ideally the quality and rigor of a program should come from the major courses)
4. Do any of the required foundational courses have prerequisite requirements in other departments?
5. Are all the prerequisite courses incorporated into the program and four-year plan?
6. Are exceptions allowed for any of the courses? If so, what percentage of students receive exceptions?

Complexity and DFW Rates

7. Are students in your program generally able to enroll and pass their courses?
8. If you consider courses with higher DFW rates, which of these courses serve key positions in your curriculum? (e.g., high delay, blocking, or centrality factors)
9. Do any of the courses in your program serve a foundational or prerequisite role in other programs on campus? Do any of these courses serve key positions in their curriculum?

Non-Direct Admit Programs

10. How complex is your program? How complex is your program if the “pre” program is included?
11. What approximate percentage of students who declare a pre-major in your program are accepted?
12. What happens to students who are not accepted into your program? What are their alternate pathways?

Curricular Complexity Reflection—Please complete just this section based on your thoughts and discussion around the above questions.

13. How complex is your program? (not looking for a number, but rather a general low, medium, high assessment)
14. Which courses in your program have the highest delay factor?
15. Which courses in your program have highest blocking factor?
16. Considering your answers for the questions above, are there any opportunities to revise curriculum in a way that could reduce program complexity? Why or why not?