

INTERSEGMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATES
of the
California Community Colleges,
the California State University and the University of California
2003-2004



Lawrence Pitts, Chair
Academic Senate UC

1111 Franklin Street, Room 12309
Telephone: (510) 987-0711

Oakland, California 94607-5200
FAX (510) 763-0309

August 31, 2004

TO: ACADEMIC SENATES
University of California – Dr. Lawrence Pitts, Chair
California State University – Dr. David McNeil, Chair
California Community Colleges – Dr. Kate Clark, President

FROM: LAWRENCE PITTS, ICAS CHAIR

RE: *SCIGETC Proposal*

Attached to this letter please find a SCIGETC Proposal that was transmitted to ICAS for discussion and more formal action at its April 30, 2004 meeting. The SCIGETC proposal, which is modeled on IGETC, has been developed by faculty involved with IMPAC to better prepare students for major requirements in such specific disciplines as Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Geology. In an earlier communication, Professor Herb Strauss, UC Lead Faculty for IMPAC, noted the following:

- “IGETC has been a great success in guiding Community College students to a curriculum that will facilitate transfer to the four year colleges. IGETC does not necessarily prepare students for specific major requirements and many students who major in disciplines with high unit requirements are better advised to forgo IGETC and concentrate on their major from the beginning.
- The intent is to follow the IGETC pattern as much as possible and so I do not try and spell out complicated requirements such as English in detail – the requirements would be the same as for the current IGETC (with the current variation from campus to campus, etc.).
- There are a few points that will require general agreement: One course in the Arts and Humanities and in the Social and Behavioral Science can be postponed by the student and taken at the four-year college. This is not very different from the current situation in which two IGETC courses may be postponed (for demonstrated need).

- The current IGETC requires one course in physical science and one in biological science. I suggest that for the purposes of SCIGETC, a year sequence in one of these areas be accepted as meeting GE requirements.
- I have used CAN numbers in the Table – these can be translated by each campus to local numbering and course sequence.”

The proposal has now been approved for distribution beyond ICAS and is thus transmitted with the previous designation “Draft” removed, and a request that the segment Academic Senates review, consider and report on it at the second ICAS meeting next year.

Suggested letter to students planning transfer.

To the student: SCIGETC is a series of programs for transfer from a two-year college to a four-year college. It is designed for high unit majors, especially those in science and engineering. It calls for starting technical courses immediately and postponing some of the general education requirements until after transfer. If you might be headed for a Science major, SCIGETC is the place to start. SCIGETC allows you to get certification for the GE courses you do take at the community college, so that you won't have to repeat those GE courses after transfer.

IMPORTANT: Completing either IGETC or SCIGETC does NOT guarantee admission to the four-year school nor to a specific major.

1) If you know your major and both your Community College and the four-year to which you wish to transfer, you should consult the ASSIST website and the four-year school website for more specific advice. (<http://www.assist.org>.)

2) Most of the technical majors require many courses that must be taken in sequence. Only by starting the sequence early in your college career can you graduate in a minimum time.

3) SCIGETC is organized as follows: Table A outlines the basic requirements. The “major preparation” differs for different majors and requirements for individual majors are available at ASSIST and from your counselor/advisor. Note that many closely related majors have similar lower division requirements. The requirements are NOT the same for all of the four-year colleges. Please note item 1) again.

4) You might not know exactly which major you will want to follow. Different majors (and sometimes different schools) have different requirements. If you take the more advanced of the possible choices, you will usually be able to cover all possibilities. For example, the first term of Calculus, CAN Math 17 (first quarter calculus) or Math 18 (first semester) will be accepted by more majors than CAN Math 29 or Math 30 (Calculus for the Life and Social Sciences). Most curricula that accept Math 29 will accept Math 17 as a substitute, but not vice versa. For most majors a year of Math is required, while most engineering programs require two years of math and a full year of physics. For these the entire sequence, in this case CAN Math Sequence B, should be taken at one college. (See the CAN website for course and sequence descriptions. (http://www.can.csus.edu/Can_Course_Descriptions.asp))

5) Not all the courses listed for any given major are required for SCIGETC. However, many of the courses are required for transfer into specific majors. As soon as your plans for a major and school become clearer, you should consult the Assist matrix and a transfer advisor.

Questions and Answers about SCIGETC September 30, 2004

What's the point for the student?

SCIGETC provides a path to meeting the major lower-division transfer requirements for technical major while at the same time retaining many of the features of IGETC. It also means students will complete advanced mathematics, chemistry and physics courses at the lower division in community colleges, resulting in a cost-savings for them.

Why not stay with IGETC?

In high-unit transfer-requirement majors, students taking the required major courses AND IGETC take longer than two years and enter the upper division without full preparation required to enroll in upper division courses.

What's the advantage for counselors?

SCIGETC provides a defined path that an advisor can recommend to the student and that is better than IGETC for a student who pursues a science or technical major.

What majors will be included in SCIGETC?

At the moment the faculty who have taken part in IMPAC meetings in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Geology recommend acceptance of the SCIGETC for admission to their various universities.

Will other majors be included in SCIGETC?

We anticipate that other majors that have high-unit requirements for transfer will be wish to be included in SCIGETC (or the same program with a different name), if SCIGETC is approved and seen to be successful.

How does SCIGETC differ from IGETC?

At the moment IGETC allows for two courses to be postponed "for good cause" and taken at the transfer school. SCIGETC calls for two courses to be postponed and taken at the transfer school. The difference is that for SCIGETC, the postponing of the two courses would be expected and not an exception. The attached chart offers further details.

Who certifies SCIGETC completion?

The IGETC web site says:

IGETC provides a pattern of courses that fulfills the transfer general education requirements at both the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU). Each California community college offers a complete set of courses that satisfy IGETC. If you attend more than one community college, the campus you attend just prior to transfer will certify your completion of IGETC, including courses taken at other California community colleges.

At present, there is a petition for *partial* certification of IGETC (for good cause). A similar petition would be routinely available for SCIGETC; it would not require the statement of good cause but would require the specification of a major.

What happens if the student changes his/her mind about pursuing a science major, prior to transfer?

In most cases the student can go on to complete IGETC with no loss of time or effort. Of course details depend on when the student changes his /her goals and from what major to what other major.

And what happens if the student changes his/her mind after transfer, say from chemistry to history--would the certification remain?

The student would be held to completing the SCIGETC as originally specified in the petition. In most cases they will have taken more courses by doing SCIGETC than by taking IGETC.

SciGETC Proposal
Modified September 30, 2004

IGETC	SciGETC	Notes for SciGETC Students
Area 1 English Written and Oral Composition UC 2 courses CSU 3 courses	Same	
Area 2 Math/quantitative reasoning 1 course	1 course from CAN SEQ B, or C or (for Biology) D.	Many CSU and UC science programs require a year of calculus minimally; some (such as Engineering) require four semesters. Minimum preparation may require you to take additional math before you can take upper- division courses in the major discipline.
Area 3 Arts and Humanities 3 courses including at least one from each	2-3 courses defer up to 1 course	If you defer one course, you must complete one additional lower-division GE course in this area after transfer. The transfer institution determines applicable GE courses.
Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences 3 courses from at least 2 disciplines	2-3 courses defer up to 1 course	If you defer one course, you must complete one additional lower-division GE course in this area after transfer. The transfer institution determines applicable GE courses.
Area 5 Physical and Biological Science one course each, one with lab	CAN Chem. Seq A 10 units (2 courses) OR CAN Phys. Seq B 8 units (2 courses) OR CAN Biol Seq A 10 Units (2 courses) OR One life science and one physical science course including one lab course 7 units (2 courses)	Please note that these are minimum requirements. Individual majors require considerably more in addition to the SCIGETC requirements. Please see ASSIST and your counselor/advisor for suggestions for specific majors. Many programs require completion of calculus-based physics. Students are urged to review the discipline program requirements for prospective transfer schools
Foreign language UC only	same UC only	
-----	-----	-----
US History and Government - CSU only - 2 courses	same 2 Courses – CSU only	This is not part of IGETC, but is listed for information only.
39-44 units	33-44 units	
Lower-division course to be taken after transfer: none	Lower-division course to be taken after transfer: 2 courses maximally	
Major preparation is not required for certification but, where noted at right, completion of the major requirements prior to transfer is strongly recommended by the major discipline faculty.	IMPAC core Major preparation 12-15 units (3-4 courses) plus additional math, chemistry, physics or biology courses required by the major discipline. (It is strongly recommended that you complete these requirements prior to transfer).	
Units including Major Preparation	60-72 units (semester units)	