

SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION DISCIPLINE COUNCIL OF CUNY

As The Speech Communication Discipline Council of the City University of New York, we propose the following amendment to the Common Core structure/contents recommended by the "Pathways" Task Force:

Whereas the Speech Communication Discipline Council notes that reading, writing, listening, speaking and critical thinking are universally acknowledged "basic skills" in every General Education curriculum; Whereas a fundamental speech communication course teaches all five basic skills; Whereas over three quarters of the colleges and universities in the AAC & U have oral communication skills as a required learning outcome in the General Education Core; Whereas teachers and employers in all sectors agree on the importance of oral and written communication; Whereas the current draft of the Pathways Common Core Curriculum references Oral Communication but lacks a single course that addresses all these skills ...
Whereas Speech Communication, like English Composition, Math & Quantitative Reasoning and Natural & Physical Sciences, is a "crucial field" for CUNY students...

Be it resolved that "communications" be removed from the 'creative expressions' area of the Pathways Common Core Curriculum and that the Required section of the core include 3 credits of Speech Communication along with English Composition, Math & Quantitative Reasoning and Natural & Physical Sciences courses, thus reducing the Flexible Core to 12 credits among 4 areas.

It is further recommended that the Flexible Core recommend a maximum of 3-4 learning outcomes for each area and allow each College to name the courses to be included in each area, with attention to the need for students to be introduced to at least four major disciplines of significance at each College and ensure that, though entry level for these disciplines, a rigorous quality be maintained for these core courses.