

PATHWAYS INVITATION

May 5, 2008

The Core Curriculum Implementation Team invites faculty to propose “Pathways” through the Core.

Pathways are clusters of three (for Engineering students) or four (for Arts & Sciences and Business students) courses with a common theme.

Pathways will cultivate students’ abilities to make intentional, thoughtful, and reflective choices about their own educations; to study a theme from a number of disciplinary or methodological perspectives; and to perceive connections and relationships among ideas. Pathways represent an important part of the Integrations component of the new Core Curriculum.

The learning goals associated with the Pathways are Integrative Learning and Intentional Learning. These are “meta-level” goals relevant to the Pathway as a whole. They are not to be applied at the level of the individual course. Assessment of the goals will occur upon completion of the Pathway.

Integrative Learning: Objectives

- Students will be able to describe connections among courses in their Pathways and between the Pathways and their majors.
- Drawing on their Pathways courses, students will be able to analyze a significant issue from at least two different disciplinary or methodological perspectives.

Intentional Learning: Objectives

- Drawing on their Pathways experiences, students will be able to reflect on the learning process itself and on the past and future of their vocational and educational choices.

How do Pathways work?

- Most students will take four courses with a common theme. Engineering students will take three courses with a common theme.
- No more than two courses in a student’s Pathway may be taken in the same department.
- Two courses in any individual student’s Pathway may fulfill the requirements for that student’s major. Engineering students may include only one course taken in their major department.
- Pathways courses will normally be distributed through the four years at Santa Clara.
- An individual student’s Pathway may contain no more than two courses in either the Cultures and Ideas sequence (C&I 1, 2, and 3) or the Religion, Theology, and Culture sequence (RTC 1, 2, and 3).
- Only one course in a Pathway may be a “Foundations” course (normally taken the first year).

When do students declare Pathways? How and when will Pathways be completed?

- By the end of the *sophomore* year, students will normally declare a Pathway (with a form, similar to the major/minor declaration form, submitted to the Drahnann Center).
- In the winter quarter of the *senior* year, each student will submit electronic copies of the following documents, to be maintained on a website or student learning e-portfolio:

One paper or project from each course in the Pathway. Each paper or project should demonstrate the student’s ability to analyze the theme associated with the Pathway from one or more disciplinary or methodological perspectives.

A brief (two page) synthesizing paper explaining why each course paper or project was

selected for inclusion; how the selected items, as a group, illustrate integrative, cross-disciplinary learning; and how the Pathway is linked with other curricular and co-curricular experiences at SCU. The paper will be graded Pass/No Pass.

How can faculty propose Pathways?

Faculty can propose Pathways by submitting a brief proposal describing:

- The theme or topic of the Pathway
- The name and department of a faculty member who will serve as facilitator (see *facilitator's honorarium*, below)
- The names and departments of participating faculty
- **At least ten** courses from at least three different disciplines contributing to the Pathway
- Potential connections among the courses in the Pathway
- Disciplinary or methodological perspectives available in Pathways courses
- Potential links to RLCs or Centers of Distinction
- Potential links to undergraduate research opportunities.

*The Pathway proposal should list **at least ten courses from at least three different disciplines** contributing to the Pathway. When syllabi for existing courses are available, they should be included.*

Application Guidelines

Preliminary Phase: ASAP

Faculty interested in developing a Pathway and in inviting other faculty to consider affiliating with the Pathway may submit a brief, informal description of the intended Pathway to the Office of Undergraduate Studies (ugradstudies@scu.edu) at any time. The theme and description will be posted on the website (www.scu.edu/core2009) at the Pathways link. Interested colleagues may contact the faculty member who submitted the informal Pathway plan to discuss opportunities for affiliation.

Facilitator's honorarium deadline: May 14, 2008

Faculty wishing to serve as a facilitator of a Pathway may request a facilitator's honorarium of \$1500. The facilitator will supervise the development of a Pathway proposal. Honoraria are also available for the transformation of courses or the development of new courses contributing to Pathways. Please see the Honorarium application guidelines at www.scu.edu/core2009

Pathways Proposal deadlines: October 15, 2008, January 30, 2009, or April 30, 2009

Submit Pathways proposals to the Office of Undergraduate Studies (ugradstudies@scu.edu) by October 15, 2008, January 30, 2009, or April 30, 2009, with a copy to your chair.

Proposals will be evaluated by the Faculty Core Committee for Pathways, in consultation with the Core Curriculum Implementation Team. Deans and Department Chairs will be consulted in the Proposal evaluation process. Deans and Chairs will be asked to provide assurance that, if the Pathway is approved, the relevant courses are likely to be offered at least once every two years. Pathways will be approved initially for a four year term.

Priority will be given to proposals involving tenure stream faculty and senior lecturers, and proposals incorporating the following: Core courses, courses from multiple disciplines, courses linked with RLCs, courses linked with the Centers of Distinction, and courses providing opportunities for undergraduate research.