

Draft Guidelines for cross-listing/cross-referencing MPC courses (CAC approved 3/3/2021 – additional revisions to be approved by the Academic Senate)

Definition and rationale for cross-listing:

A cross-listed course is a single course offered through two or more academic departments, with each department sharing responsibility for course content, management, and assessment once the relationship is deemed appropriate. The decision to cross-list courses might be the result of collaboration between departments in recognition of compatible disciplinary interests or the desire to introduce students to different instructors and/or disciplines. Promotion of student access and/or enrollment stability may also contribute to the decision.

Co-authored cross-listed courses must be identical, and the proposal should explain how the cross-listing will benefit students.

Issues to consider and requirements for revising or separating cross-listed courses:

Faculty hold purview over curriculum in their departments. Collaboration between faculty is essential in the development of cross-listed courses, as are conversations when deciding to revise cross-listed courses, since these involve two or more disciplines. If it is determined that a change is necessary to a cross-listed course, the departments must discuss it and co-author the revision proposal.

To separate cross-listed courses, both departments should discuss the rationale for severance and identify future options for all parties. These options include offering independent (revised) courses, the deletion of cross-listed courses, and/or the creation of one or more new courses within the different departments. This decision should be made with reference to course content and objectives, and in recognition of discipline expertise as well as the impact on programs, toward the promotion of student success.

In the case of disagreement:

If departments disagree over revising or separating a cross-listed course, conversations should be arranged between the departments and their Division Chairs. In the case of an impasse, CAC will be a resource regarding curriculum development and meeting the needs of the disciplines involved. If disagreement remains between departments, the courses can no longer be cross-listed. Ultimately cross-listing courses is a collaboration. The impact on students should be considered, with the appropriate notifications/recommendations made to Counseling and any impacted programs.

Changes to state legislation, faculty assignments, or disciplinary trends (related to content, emphases and approaches, and/or program needs) will impact the status of cross-listed courses. Transparency and collaboration is necessary on the part of department faculty to provide the most effective content and experiences for our students.

Ultimately the decision to revise or separate a cross-listed course should be made in consideration of any combination of the following: student access and student benefit, course content and objectives, course scheduling, alignment with disciplinary purview (including recent disciplinary developments), the impact to programs, and the college's commitment to institutional equity and inclusion.