
Course Consistency Policy

Version: 1.0

Responsible University Official: Provost

Effective Date: August 9, 2018

1.0 Introduction

This policy defines for SLU those characteristics that, minimally, must be consistent across every section of a given course offered by any SLU academic unit, anywhere, any time.

HLC Criterion for Accreditation #3.A.3 requires that SLU’s “program quality and learning goals are consistent across all modes of delivery and all locations...[and via] any other modality” (<http://www.hlcommission.org/Policies/criteria-and-core-components.html>). The spirit of that requirement extends to the course level, as well: course quality and student learning outcomes must be consistent across all sections of the same course, regardless of course location, modality, course length, instructor, or student population.

The HLC, of its own volition and on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, monitors SLU’s compliance with this standard. University-wide adherence to this policy serves as a significant means by which SLU demonstrates its compliance.

2.0 Scope

This policy governs all courses for academic credit at SLU, in all colleges and schools, at all campuses (including Madrid), at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

3.0 Definitions

Course

A specific and discrete educational experience in which students register (nearly always for academic credit) and that are designed to advance student knowledge, ability, skill, and/or disposition toward defined educational outcomes.

Example:

ENGL 1900: Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research. Studies complex structures of language including its logical and persuasive possibilities. Emphasizes analytical reading, critical thinking, and research methodology skills. Prerequisite: ENGL-1500, or equivalent. 3.0 credit hours.

Section

A specific and discrete instance of a course (defined above) offered at a specific time, in a specific year/term, at a specific location (campus, room), via a specific modality (defined below).

Example:

ENGL 1900-14, offered in Fall 2017, 16 weeks, on-ground, STL Campus, MWF 9:00-9:50am, Xavier Hall Room #252.

Modality

The mode by which a section of a course (defined above) is taught by faculty and experienced by students. Common modes include the following: 100% on-ground/face-to-face, 100% web-based (synchronous or asynchronous), or a hybrid (on-ground and web-based) to various extents.

Example:

ENGL 1900-14, Fall 2017, 16 weeks, **on-ground**, STL Campus, MWF 9-9:50am, Xavier #252

ENGL 1900-26, Fall 2017, 16 weeks, **web-based**, asynchronous

ENGL 1900-27, Fall 2017, 16 weeks, **web-based**, synchronous, M 6-9:00pm

ENGL 1900-42, Fall 2017, 16 weeks, **hybrid**, MW 6-9:00pm, Ritter #210

Home Department

The department that initially proposed, and was subsequently granted approval to offer by the governing curriculum committee, a given SLU course.

4.0 Policy Statements

4.1 Every section of a given SLU course must be designed to foster student achievement of a common, primary set of defined educational outcomes as defined by the Home Department.

- course title
 - *Note: Official course titles may be augmented at the section level by subtitles designating specific section attributes or emphases*
- course description (*see Policy on Cross-Listing and Dual-Listing Courses*)
- course credits
- pre-requisites
- co-requisites
- core requirement fulfillment status
- major requirement fulfillment status
- minor requirement fulfillment status
- certificate requirement fulfillment status
- applicability of course/course credit toward core, major, minor, or certificate requirements
- mutual exclusivity rules
- status related to fulfillment of admission requirements for any other SLU academic programs (at both the undergraduate and graduate level)
- course repeat rules
- repeat for credit rules
- home department (*see definition above; also see Policy on Cross-Listing and Dual-Listing*)

4.2 Course content (textbooks, readings, supplemental materials, assignments, exams, assessments, calendar, etc.) and pedagogies employed in discrete sections of a given course may vary by section as deemed appropriate by the faculty member and the faculty member's supervisor/department.

5.0 Approvals

This document was:

1. Endorsed by CADD: via email, July-August 2018
2. Approved by Provost: August 9, 2018
3. Amended by Provost to explicitly note that the scope includes all SLU campuses: February 25, 2019