



End of Season IAI and Panel Updates: **Spring 2025 Season**

Overall Reminders for Institutions & Course Submitters:

- **Panels really do want to approve your courses!** To that end, they ask that institutional course submitters and departmental chairs and faculty first review the course descriptions and panel information supplied on the site and compare to the intended-to-be-submitted to determine alignment, make changes as necessary, and ensure the course meets the current criteria and content requirements. This is a common reason courses are sent back for more information or returned decisions. Panels are noting that this is happening regularly, and the submitting institution's proactive time spent checking makes for more easy approval, we promise.
 - Descriptions: [IAI Course Information | iTransfer](#)
 - Criteria: [Panel Related Documents](#)
- All GECC and Major panels continue to express frustration in the lack of detail on submitted weekly topical outlines, which makes it difficult to determine if all required IAI topics are being adequately covered within the course. All weekly topical outlines must go beyond chapter numbers and titles to include subtopics as well. This issue remains the number one reason courses are sent back to institutions. Remember, you may utilize syllabi examples available in the iManage voting to provide good examples to faculty submitting.
- Submitters should consult each department's chair and/or faculty before selecting a syllabus to submit to a panel for review. There have been several recent examples where faculty who serve as panel members were not aware that a course had been called for review and indicated that the submitted syllabus was outdated, did not provide all required information, etc.
- The submission deadline for fall review is Wednesday, October 1st at 5:00 pm. Submissions received after that time will be reviewed in the spring semester of 2026. The spring 2026 submission deadline is Monday, March 2nd at 5:00 pm. As a reminder, we extend the deadline to Monday when the 1st falls on Saturday or Sunday.
- Reminder: The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges have merged to one institutional list of approved IAI courses in our database. The work for the merger was completed in early January. When articulating courses through our worksheets, course searches, etc., you only see Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC). Students may be confused by this change when utilizing the worksheets, so we recommend letting them know about this important change.

IAI GECC Panels:

GECC Communications

The panel is in the process of converting their current Course Approval Criteria document into a checklist. The revised version will also more clearly define what is expected for "formal writing" as well as "revised writing." The panel hopes to finalize the revised criteria/new checklist format at the Fall '25 meeting.

GECC Humanities & Fine Arts

Based on previous meetings, the panel continued the discussion regarding the need for a definition of

“formal writing” that works for all disciplines under the GECC HFA panel – philosophy, dance, etc. – as there is a stark difference, based on the nature of a discipline, of the extent to what amount of writing should be expected in a course (such as dance). As result of discussions, the panel made the following revisions to the Writing Requirements section of their Course Approval Criteria:

Previous:

Writing Requirements

- Writing information should be detailed and included either as separate document or a clear section of the syllabus. Formal writing **must be present in assessed components** of the course for IAI approval. **Written components** must be described in the syllabus and be clearly reflected in the grading scale. The nature and extent, **breadth and scope** of the writing **required within the course** should be meaningful and intentionally integrated with the subject matter. Writing components may include, but are not limited to: reaction papers, journals, essay questions on exams or class assignments, extended blogs/discussion posts, and research papers. Extended blogs/discussion posts are defined as those that are significant and part of the assessed writing required in the course. **Formal writing is defined as writing that articulates an idea in a critical manner with consideration of the discipline and academic level of the course.**

Current/Revised (effective Fall '25):

Writing Requirements

- **Writing assignment descriptions should be detailed and included either as separate document or a clear section of the syllabus.**
- Formal writing must be present in assessed components of the course for IAI approval. Written components must be described in the syllabus and be clearly reflected in the grading scale. **The nature and extent, breadth and scope of the writing required within the course should be meaningful and intentionally integrated with the subject matter.** Writing components may include, but are not limited to: reaction papers, journals, essay questions on exams or class assignments, extended blogs/discussion posts, and research papers. Extended blogs/discussion posts are defined as those that are significant and part of the assessed writing required in the course.
- **Formal writing is defined as writing that articulates and develops an idea in a sustained and critical manner with consideration of the discipline and academic level of the course.**

The panel discussed native and heritage speakers' courses submitted for the 4th semester H1900 Foreign Language IV descriptor and decided not to make any specific changes in relation to that; however, the panel added a “Foreign Language” section to the disciplines section of the document as follows:

- Foreign Language Courses
 - o It is important that courses submitted as fourth semester foreign language courses to the humanities and fine arts panel must include cultural exploration beyond the everyday, which is intentional and integrated throughout the course. This course should develop formal writing and explore aspects of the humanities and the arts within the topical outlines. Heritage and Native speaker courses should expose students to include these cultural aspects and writing, etc.

The panel also revised the approval criteria “Interdisciplinary Courses” section by clarifying what is required for approval under these courses which is that the course must have topics covered under both Humanities and Fine Arts disciplines but there must also be a balance, or equal coverage, between the Humanities and Fine Arts disciplines within HF courses.

Current:

Interdisciplinary Courses

o In order to qualify as an interdisciplinary course, the course must incorporate methodologies from both, or all the disciplines involved. Courses in which a single discipline's methodologies are used to examine subjects within another discipline (such as a historiographic examination of fine arts) is not considered interdisciplinary.

Revised (effective Fall '25):

Interdisciplinary Courses

o In order to qualify as an interdisciplinary course, the course must incorporate methodologies from all the disciplines involved. Courses in which a single discipline's methodologies are used to examine subjects within another discipline (such as a historiographic examination of fine arts) is not considered interdisciplinary.

o HF courses should clearly represent both Humanities and Fine Arts disciplines within the course outline/content listed within the syllabus. There should be at least one discipline from each for a submitted course to qualify for these IAI identifiers.

The final version has been deployed on the site:

[GECC Humanities and Fine Arts Panel Related Documents | iTransfer Spring 2025 GECC HFA Panel Criteria](#)

GECC Life Sciences

The panel confirmed and finalized the panel's revised course approval criteria document, including clarifying language regarding field trips vs. field work and labs in the field: <https://ittransfer.org/submitters/panelrelateddocuments/gecclifesciences.php>.

GECC Mathematics

The panel discussed the prerequisite requirement for M1903 - Mathematics for Elementary Teaching I and II. The first course in the sequence should just be placement into the course based on institutional standards. The first course in the sequence should always be the prerequisite on the second course, upon which the IAI code is placed, to ensure that all topics are covered across the sequence. Due to this, the panel would like IAI to remind submitters and institutions that both syllabi must be submitted for review even though when courses for M1903 are called, only the approved second course shows in the request. This is referenced in the course description for the M1903 code.

GECC Physical Sciences

A correction was made to the panel's Course Approval Criteria to add "Methods for evaluation" back into the bulleted submission requirements list on the first page. [GE Physical Sciences panel documents](#).

GECC Social & Behavioral Sciences

Based on the panel's continued need to clarify or define what formal revised writing means, the panel reviewed the language used in the GECC Humanities & Fine Art's approval criteria document. The decision was made to adopt their section, with slight changes to fully meet the expectation of Social Sciences as follows:

Writing Requirements (NEW VERSION – effective Fall '25)

- Writing information should be detailed and included either as separate document or a clear section of the syllabus. Formal writing must be present in assessed components of the course for IAI approval. Written components must be described in the syllabus and be clearly reflected in the grading scale. The nature and extent, breadth and scope of the writing required within the course should be meaningful and

intentionally integrated with the disciplinary expectations. Writing components may include, but are not limited to: reaction papers, journals, essay questions on exams or class assignments, extended blogs/discussion posts, research papers, lab reports, and problem sets. Extended blogs/discussion posts are defined as those that are significant and part of the assessed writing required in the course. **Formal writing is defined as writing that articulates an idea in a critical manner with consideration of the discipline and academic level of the course.**

Writing Requirements (OLD VERSION)

All course submissions must provide evidence of writing within the discipline as part of the course and of course grading criteria. All proposals must clearly explain how writing is part of the course's content, instruction, and evaluation. Writing components may include, but are not limited to, reaction papers, journals, essay questions on exams or class assignments, and formal research papers. Submission materials must include the nature and volume of written assignments.

IAI Major Panels:

Agriculture - There are no changes or updates this season.

Art

The panel modified the **Diverse and Inclusive Historical and Contemporary Reference** statements within the descriptions to add "*This should exist as a separate statement within the syllabus.*" This will be effective in the fall '25 semester.

Biology

The panel finalized their new approval criteria document, which is now formatted to be used as a checklist for faculty and submitters to use going forward. The revised criteria also includes a link to a new, separate Google doc that provides an extensive list of current and modern lab techniques and instruments commonly used within the panel's major courses. Please refer to this list and ensure that courses submitted for the BIO 910 sequence includes 10 – 15 different techniques and tools as clearly stated at the top of the new Google document. While this number is not specifically stated in the criteria, they did revise one of the lab criteria bullets to indicate that a diverse selection of techniques and instruments should be used in the sequence::

NEW: A diversity of current techniques and instruments that enable the study of organisms on the biochemical, microscopic, and macroscopic levels are used. For a list of suggested techniques and instruments, visit [Modern Biology Tools - Google Docs](#).

OLD: Current techniques and instruments that enable the study of organisms on the biochemical, microscopic, and macroscopic levels are used.

Business - There are no changes or updates this season.

Chemistry

The panel revised their approval criteria to clarify the language in the delivery mode section as follows:

Current:

Delivery Modes

- o Specify the delivery mode, whether traditional, online, hybrid, blended, etc.

Revised (effective Fall '25):

Delivery Modes

- o Specify the delivery mode, whether face-to-face, online synchronous, online asynchronous, blended, etc.
- ~ labs must be in-person on any of the possible delivery modes.

The panel also determined that course outcomes and student outcomes are the same thing, or close enough, so the course outcomes section was deleted from the criteria document. The new document is deployed on the site: [CHEMISTRY MAJOR PANEL - Criteria Document](#)

Computer Science

The panel added a new bullet under the Evaluation section of their course approval criteria document as follows:

- Either provide a separate document or include within the syllabus a statement/explanation of how students are evaluated on achieving the listed learning outcomes without substantial assistance (e.g., effectively restricting the use of generative AI, using proctored exams in testing centers, etc.). *New requirement added Spring '25, effective Fall '25.*

Criminal Justice - There are no changes or updates this season.

Early Childhood Education - There are no changes or updates this season.

Elementary & Secondary Education

The new panel has finished establishing their course approval criteria ([Education & Secondary Education Major Panel Related Documents | iTransfer](#)), GECC course recommendations, and two descriptors (ESE 901 and ESE 902). Institutions are encouraged to review these new descriptor options and start submitting aligned courses. Fall '25 will be the first season for the panel to receive and vote on submitted courses. All of this information can be accessed on the panel's major page (which will be enhanced with additional information in the near future) at [Education & Secondary Education - IAI Major Course Recommendations | iTransfer](#).

ESE 901 Introduction to Education (3 to 4 credit hours) – *for the allowance of observation/clinical hours*

<https://imanager.itransfer.org/OUCampusIAI/courses/listMajorCourses.aspx?desc=ESE902>

Provides an introduction to educational professions and the system of education within the United States. This course will expose students to knowledge and skills necessary for educators to embody the dispositions of the profession, including but not limited to historical, philosophical, social, legal, and ethical issues in a diverse society. If a course has observation hours included in the content, it should be clearly described within the submission. – **FINAL (Fall 2024 creation)**

ESE 902 The Exceptional Learner (3 to 4 credit hours) – *for the allowance of observation/clinical hours* <https://imanager.itransfer.org/OUCampusIAI/courses/listMajorCourses.aspx?desc=ESE902>

This course provides an overview of evidence-based strategies to support children from birth through Grade 12 with exceptional cognitive, social, physical, and emotional needs. It covers how to identify these needs for the exceptional child and implement effective intervention strategies, methods, and programs in both early childhood and K-12 classroom settings. The course also surveys relevant federal and state laws, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), and inclusive programming. Students will be introduced to the roles of educators, families, and communities in creating supportive educational environments for individuals with special needs. This course fulfills the requirements of School Code 25.25. **FINAL (Spring 2025 creation)**

The panel discussed the GECC course recommendations for ESE major students. After discussing whether it was appropriate to try to recommend all the viable options for the endorsements for teaching, the panel decided it was best to refer students to get these recommendations from their program advisors early on in their college career. Therefore, a statement was drafted to add to the major page and the top of the GECC recommendations section which have been posted on the panel's page. The statement is: ***Students should be seeking specific endorsements and should consult with their advisor as early as possible to select appropriate courses for these desired endorsements. Regularly reviewing recommendations of an advisor is important to ensure programmatic and certification requirements are met.*** A shorter version of the statement for the HFA and SBS sections of the GECC course recommendations section was included as well: ***Students should be seeking specific endorsements and should consult with their advisor as early as possible to select appropriate courses for these desired endorsements.***

Engineering

The panel changed the prerequisite on EGR 932/L:

[**EGR932**](#) - Digital Systems

[**EGR932L**](#) - Digital Systems with a lab.

It previously listed the prerequisite as just College Algebra. Panel revised the approval criteria to state "Prerequisite: College Algebra recommended." effective for the Fall '25 semester.

The panel also discussed EGR 931/L:

[**EGR931**](#) - Electrical Circuits

[**EGR931L**](#) - Electrical Circuits with a lab.

At some institutions in the state there are two versions of the course. Therefore, the panel is seeking to determine if the course should be split between two possible versions or if the current descriptor structure is sufficient. The panel co-chairs will help with researching program requirements across the state with a focus on the 4-years for transferability. This will be revisited in the fall '25 meeting as a discussion item.

Mathematics - There are no changes or updates this season.

Media & Communications Arts - There are no changes or updates this season.

Physics - There are no changes or updates this season.

Political Science

The panel decided to add a new bullet under the textbook section on the Course Approval Criteria as follows:

- Political philosophy courses must include analysis of primary texts as an important course component.

Psychology

There was a lot of discussion during course review regarding the level of detail required on the detailed weekly topical outline. At a minimum, the panel wants to see the main topic(s) along with subtopics listed for each week. **The panel also wants to remind all institutions that the topic of research methods must be covered and clearly listed on submitted syllabi.**

Theater Arts - There are no changes or updates this season.