

Self-Designed Thematic Sequence

Approved by LEC 10-19-04

Purpose: The purpose of a Self-Designed Thematic Sequence is to provide students with the opportunity to design a Thematic Sequence that is currently not “on the books.” Providing this opportunity recognizes that the University expects students to be responsible for their own education and to think, plan, and select their coursework carefully. Certainly, students often have interests, career goals, and intellectual interests that they want to pursue but are hindered in doing so because no existing Thematic Sequence is consistent with the student’s goals. It is expected that the opportunity for students to create their own Thematic Sequence will result in greater student intentionality and responsibility for guiding and engaging in their own education.

Requirements:

1. Proposal – As described below, students will submit a detailed proposal outlining their self-designed Thematic Sequence. **With the exception of the student already having completed a one course (3 credits) that is included in the sequence, proposals must be approved in advance of the student enrolling in the remaining 6 credit hours of coursework.** The Petitions Subcommittee of the Liberal Education Council will review and all proposals for the Self-Designed Thematic Sequence and recommend to the University Director of Liberal Education whether the proposal should be approved. Final approval of the proposal rests with the University Director.

2. Faculty Advisor – Students must select a faculty advisor to help them develop their sequence proposal. It is expected that the student and faculty advisor will work closely together in developing the sequence proposal. It is the faculty advisor’s responsibility to oversee the student’s work during the student’s completion the sequence.

3. Criteria for Approval of Self-Designed Thematic Sequence – A proposal for a Self-Designed Thematic Sequence should meet the following criteria:

- Proposal is complete as specified below.
- The proposed courses – all of which must be outside the student’s department of major - shall be of sufficient rigor and depth to provide the student with in-depth knowledge of a subject matter outside the major. At least 6 of the 9 hours must be at the 200-level or higher.
- There is sufficient evidence in the proposal that the student has and will continue to work with a faculty advisor who will guide the student’s work.
- There is sufficient evidence in the proposal that the coursework proposed addresses the four principles of the Miami Plan.
- In the rationale for the proposal, the student makes a convincing argument that the proposed sequence relates specifically to the student’s stated career goals, personal interests, and intellectual goals. It should be clear from the rationale that no existing sequence addresses these issues.
- The student’s learning objectives are of sufficient merit to warrant a self-designed Thematic Sequence.

**Proposal for a Self-Designed Thematic Sequence
Cover Sheet**

Directions: Read all directions first. Complete this cover sheet and attach to your typed proposal narrative. Submit to the Office of Liberal Education, 229 Culler.

Name _____ Date _____

Banner ID _____ Major _____

Expected Date of Graduation _____

e-mail _____

Mailing address _____

Signatures:

1. Student: By submitting this proposal I state that I have read the regulations governing the Self-Designed Thematic Sequence and agree to abide by its terms and conditions.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

2. Faculty Advisor for Student's Self-Designed Thematic Sequence: I have worked with this student in discussing and planning this sequence and approve of the student's proposal. I agree that I will work with the student over the course of the sequence as his or her advisor.

Faculty Advisor Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Department _____

List all courses by number and title that are included in the sequence. Include credit hours for each and the semester and year in which you intend to take the course.

| Course No. | Course Title | Cr Hrs | Sem/Yr to enroll |
|------------|--------------|--------|------------------|
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Directions for Completing Proposal

1. Submit a detailed proposal outlining your self-designed Thematic Sequence. ***Only one course that is included in the sequence can be completed before proposing your SDT. Proposals must be approved in advance of enrolling in the remaining 6 credit hours of coursework.*** Describe your goals and objectives for the proposed Thematic Sequence. Indicate what you expect to learn from the sequence and explain how this sequence will enable you to accomplish your goals and objectives. Specifically relate your comments to your career goals, your intellectual interests, or other pertinent issues. This section must be detailed and specific.
2. Provide a rationale for this sequence. In doing so, justify why this sequence – rather than an existing sequence – is appropriate for your educational goals.
3. Describe how each of the proposed courses meets the four Miami Plan principles.
4. Include additional information that you feel would be helpful to the committee reviewing your proposal.
5. Attach a Degree Audit Report to your packet.

Additionally, include a letter of support from your faculty advisor. The letter should address, from the faculty advisor's perspective, how the proposed sequence will assist you in accomplishing your educational goals.

Be sure to have all information together when you turn in your proposal in order not to delay processing. Incomplete petitions will not be reviewed until complete.