

March 30, 2001

Re: Proposal: To Combine the Recommended Background and Non-Monitored Prerequisite Fields in Individual Course Listings in the COURSES System.

Proposal

Combine non-monitored prerequisites and recommended background into one category effective Fall 2001.

- This change will eliminate the confusion between monitored and non-monitored prerequisites.

Background

The COURSES system is the successor to an email-based course submission system developed to assist with the semester transition. For the implementation of the semester system and several years thereafter, the decision was made not to monitor prerequisites in order to assure that students could progress easily through the system. Subsequently, faculty strongly pressed for enforced prerequisites. The COURSES system was thus developed with this capability. However, because SIS could not enforce all of the areas that faculty wanted, COURSES was developed with three categories: monitored prerequisite (P:M), non-monitored prerequisite (P:NM), and recommended background (RB:). It was understood that only the first of these could be systems-enforced. The UCC approved the application of these three categories.

Since the advent of actual electronic checking of monitored prerequisites,

- the distinction of the difference between non-monitored prerequisite and recommended background has become non-existent.
- the preference is to have students see identical information regarding prerequisites or recommended background in SIS; COURSES and its printed version, Descriptions of Courses; the Schedule of Courses; and Degree Navigator.

Course Characteristics

There are approximately thirty MSU courses that have both non-monitored prerequisites and recommended background. These courses may or may not have monitored prerequisites. There are hundreds of courses that have either non-monitored prerequisites or recommended background.

Procedure

- In April 2001, provide colleges and departments with a list of courses that have both non-monitored prerequisites and recommended background so they can process a course request form during Fall 2001 to make the change they want to require a monitored prerequisite, recommended background, or neither.
- Inform colleges and departments that all courses, which have either non-monitored prerequisites or recommended background, will be changed during Summer 2001 to recommended background. Units will not be required to take any action. The COURSES system will be updated automatically.