

ADVISING NOTES

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THE UNIVERSITY TIER II SYSTEM THE EECS BREADTH AND DEPTH REQUIREMENT And other issues

To all Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering Track Students

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The purpose of these notes is **NOT** to provide a full explanation of the University TIER II-system, which is well documented in the General Education Section of your Undergraduate Catalog. The purpose of these notes is to explain the Breadth and Depth Requirement that the EE Program has in addition to the University TIER-II requirements.

The EE Program in the School of EECS requires that all its students demonstrate a **breadth and a depth** component in their general education coursework.

In practice this means that every EE and CpE track student, in combination with the University TIER-II requirement, has to take a **MINIMUM** of **Four (4) Non-Technical courses**: two courses to satisfy the University TIER-II requirement and two to satisfy the EECS Breadth and Depth requirement.

To satisfy the University TIER-II requirement:

Students must take at least one approved 4-credit hour course from 4 out of the following 5 areas:

- Applied Science and Technology
- Humanities and Fine Arts
- Natural Sciences and Math
- Social Sciences, and
- Cross-Cultural Perspectives

However EE students do not have to take any extra courses from two of those areas:

- Applied Science and Technology and
- Natural Sciences and Humanities,

because these will be satisfied once students have fulfilled the course requirements of the major department. This leaves EE students having to take at least one approved 4-credit hour course from 2 out of the remaining 3 areas:

- Humanities and Fine Arts
- Social Sciences, and
- Cross-Cultural Perspectives.

To find out if a certain course is an approved TIER II course from those areas, look for the (2H), (2S) or (2C) symbol printed next to the course name in the university catalog; or at your DARS report; or at the General Education Section of your Undergraduate Catalog.

To satisfy the EECS Breadth and Depth requirement:

Students must take two more courses which do not necessarily have to be TIER-II. Also, the 1st and 2nd courses do not need to be prerequisites for the 3rd and 4th courses. At this point there are two ways students can proceed.

OPTION-ONE

Students choose to follow the standard “2+2” model in which case the third course must be chosen to establish a depth in the first chosen area (Humanities, Social Sciences, or Cross-cultural Experiences) and as such it should be from the same major as the first course was. The fourth course must be chosen to establish a depth in the second chosen area (Humanities, Social Sciences, or Cross-cultural Experiences) and as such it should be from the same major as the second course was.

This means that to satisfy the depth requirement, students are not supposed to mix courses from two different Humanities majors, or from two different Social Sciences majors. (exceptions exist for majors belonging to the same area, i.e. ART, IART, AH)

OPTION-ONE EXAMPLES

Here are some good examples of the “2+2” model:

(Two Humanities + Two Social Sciences)

IART 117 IART 118 ECON 103 ECON 104

(Two Humanities + Two Social Sciences + Some courses not TIER II)

IART 117 IART 419 ECON 103 ECON 313

OPTION-2

Students choose to follow the “3+1 model”, in which case both the third and fourth courses must be chosen from the same major with one of the previous two courses. Again the three courses in the first part of this model must all be from the same major.

NOTE: Again, in either option, neither the 3rd nor the 4th course has to be a TIER-II designated course in its major.

OPTION-2 EXAMPLES

Good examples that follow the “3+1” model as opposed to the “2+2” model are:

(Three Humanities + One Social Science)

IART 117 IART 118 IART 211 ECON 103

(Three Social Sciences + One Humanities)

ECON 103 ECON 104 ECON 240 IART 117

(Three Social Sciences + One Humanities + Some courses not TIER II)

ECON 103 ECON 104 ECON 307 IART 117

BAD EXAMPLES

The following examples are results of **bad choices** and should be avoided:

(No depth established in a Social Sciences major)

ECON 103 POLS 101 IART 117 IART 118

(No depth established in a Humanities major)

ECON 103 ECON 104 IART 117 HIST 121

(No depth established in either areas)

ECON 103 HIST 101 IART 117 POLS 101

*** If you have already made an erroneous choice, please see me as soon as possible to move the extra courses to the free-electives area.

Some exceptions are allowed with the approval of the Assistant Chair, provided the program continues to require one or two free electives:

Students have the option of using their **free electives** to establish a new non-technical depth area by following either the 2+2 or the 3+1 model.

Example-1:

In the 2+2 model a student may choose to take the following courses:

IART 117 IART 118 ECON 103 PSY 101 SWAH 111 SWAH 112
(for 2 free electives)

IART 117 IART 118 ECON 103 SWAH 111 SWAH 112
(for one free elective)

Here, all University TIER II requirements are satisfied, a depth area has been established in the Interdisciplinary Arts and a new non-technical depth area has been established by using the Swahili courses which satisfy the 2-free-electives requirement.

Example-2:

In the 3+1 model a student may choose to take the following courses:

IART 117 ECON 103 PSY 101 SWAH 111 SWAH 112 SWAH 113
(for 2 free electives)

IART 117 ECON 103 SWAH 111 SWAH 112 SWAH 113
(for one free elective)

Here, again all University TIER II requirements are satisfied, and a non-technical depth area has been established by using the three Swahili courses two of which satisfy the 2-free-electives requirement.