

# ACADEMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION WINTER 2024 QUARTERLY REPORT

SUBMITTED BY  
KRISTI LEWIS TYRAN, ACC CHAIR  
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This report will provide an overview of the work of the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC), a sub-committee of the WWU Faculty Senate, for Winter Quarter 2024.

Over the past two quarters the ACC has continued its evolution in the post-pandemic shutdown era. Colleges now all have approved new Alternative Modality Policies and all of those policies have been submitted to ACC. These Provost-Approved policies ensure that our curriculum is consistent with the WWU mission and regulatory requirements that are more stringent for online education.

In Winter Quarter the ACC continued to see new approaches to instruction, including entire programs with Hybrid or Online courses. The ACC has increasingly needed to research and inform itself on a variety of curricular approaches to both support faculty innovation and maintain compliance with regulatory and accreditation requirements. As the ACC reviewed over 100 Alternate Modality proposals, we continued to learn and evolve in our understanding of both the higher scrutiny of online education due to regulation and the need for better guidance to support faculty interests in teaching more Alternate Modality courses.

After March 5<sup>th</sup>, the final deadline to submit Catalog Changes for the 2024-25 Academic Year, the ACC began to develop a revised Credit Hour Policy and Guidance Document for the regulatory emphasis on Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI). The revisions and new RSI document are designed to provide better guidance to faculty who propose Alternate Modality for their courses, especially courses with Asynchronous components. Faculty Senate should see the ACC approved documents by the end of April.

The following sections provide an overview of ACC work for Winter Quarter 2024.

## CURRICULUM WORK

Oversight of all aspects of curriculum is one of the ACC's major priorities during the academic year, and the total approval numbers during Winter Quarter represent the bulk of the total ACC will review over the academic year.

In Winter Quarter the ACC approved 598 curriculum proposals (including 124 program of study proposals and 463 course proposals) via Curriculog (Western's curriculum management software tool). Year to date, the ACC has approved a total of 826 proposals, including 661 course proposals and 115 Alternate Modality approvals.

## POLICY WORK

Due to the high number of curricular proposals, there were only a few Policy discussions and approvals at ACC during Winter Quarter. Approvals for policy changes and updates included:

- Progress in fixing the WP Points for courses in the Catalog.
  - WP Points have been fixed for the 2024-25 Catalog.
- PEJ Task Force Charge
  - Professor Jae Fisher was appointed Chair of the PEJ Task Force. They have initiated the process of appointing Task Force members and plan to hold the first meeting in April 2024.
- Recommended Review of all Permanently Approved Online/Hybrid courses for Compliance with new College Modality Policies
  - Departments are beginning their review with guidance from their College or Program Curriculum Committees.
- Accommodating new Permanent Alternate Modality Proposals
  - To accommodate an expected increase in alternate modality proposals, the ACC approved allowing new permanent alternate modality proposals to be made the quarter prior to teaching in the approved alternate modalities for the coming Academic Year. This allowance is temporary expiring Summer 2025.
- Expected ongoing Policy Work for the remainder of the 2023-24 Academic year:
  - Revising the Credit Hour Policy to provide better guidance for alternate modality proposals.
  - Creating a guidance document for Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) in courses taught in an alternate modality.
  - Reviewing and revising several policies related to alternate modality that were developed immediately post-pandemic.
  - Developing consistent terminology for Degrees, Programs, Certificates, etc. This will include discussing guidelines for these programs.
  - Updating the cross-listed course policies.
  - Investigating “Lab” versus “Studio” time in terms of contact hours.
  - Discussing Special Topics courses and perhaps revising guidelines for these courses.
  - Discussing the evolving nature of alternative modalities as they relate to programs, courses, and the student experience at WWU.

## CONCLUSION

As an important sub-committee of the WWU Faculty Senate, the ACC continues to dedicate its work toward supporting the WWU mission of providing the highest quality education to our students. At WWU, the faculty “own the curriculum” and the ACC serves the faculty to assure quality and compliance with federal regulations, NWCCU Accreditation standards, and faculty-determined requirements.