

Rationale for the changes to the Natural Science Major and the General Science with Teaching Major:

1. BA students have had increasing difficulty in meeting both upper level credit requirements and writing requirements in the major. Few writing courses exist in the concentration area and in many cases the seats are limited or the course requires a series of pre-requisites beyond the number of disciplinary courses. The major tends to be broad in lower level courses and narrow in upper level. To some degree this is the nature of the major, but our major is a course-work heavy BA. To help students meet fundamental major requirements, while fulfilling college and university requirements, we propose to change requirements in the BA in Natural Science to

- (a) insure that students can meet writing requirement in major

- (b) assist students with meeting the upper level course requirement

The proposed change is to "remove the lower level computer science requirement and require (instead) technical writing, an upper level humanities course. This does not add credit hours to the major, but limits flexibility. All BA students are required to complete two upper level humanities. So requiring Technical Writing limits elective choice.

2. Students in the Natural Science major are required to take a capstone course that pulls together many of the major theories and ideas about science, some specific to their concentration. The current required course is the Paradigms of Knowledge course, designed to explore primary knowledge in the field. Research Methods is a new CST course designed for students with an interest in teaching that requires that students learn about the research process, scientific method and discuss major research findings. Because the Paradigms course is offered only every other year and as offered requires programming knowledge, we propose to allow Natural Science majors to meet their capstone requirement by taking either the Paradigms course or the Research Methods course.