

November 11, 1940

Academic Standards Committee

Memorandum to Members of the Committee

The present requirements for the B.A. degree make mandatory only two specific courses, (English 101-2 and Speech 115, totaling 8 hours) and 34 hours of work in specified kinds of courses (English Literature 3, Laboratory Science 8, Mathematics or Science 3, Social Science 9, Psychology, Philosophy, Bible 6, Orientation 1, Physical Education and Hygiene 4), making a total of 42 hours more or less specifically prescribed. To this should probably be added from 6 to 12 hours of work in a foreign language, since most students meet the language requirement by course work in College. Besides this specified work, there are the courses taken to complete the major, 25 to 30 additional hours. The total of more or less prescribed work is, then, about 70 hours, or 56% of the total course work; 44% of the courses taken may be freely elected, and at present, with little advice from any faculty member.

Is it desirable for a college undergraduate, especially in his first or second year, to be permitted to choose so freely? Would it not be better to prescribe more narrowly the kind of work which would give him the liberal arts background for which his B. A. degree supposedly stands?

These are questions which may properly be discussed by the academic standards committee. At the next meeting of the committee, early in December, suggestions might be offered as to how the problem should be attacked, and a sub-committee could then carry on the investigation more thoroughly.

Will you please think the matter over before our next meeting.

K. W. Dykema, Chairman