

On Course

A newsletter of the Dartmouth College Registrar's Office

Topics Renumbering

"Has it been less busy for you this summer?"

We hear this frequently, a reasonable question given the sparsely populated Green, absent of all but sophomores and happy campers. In reality it has been quietly full of activity in McNutt, for example we have been partnering with departments and programs so that the '14-'15 ORC will reflect the new **Special Topics "Course Point" numbering system**. Each topic now has a unique Catalog number, title, and description. It

starts with a two digit leading number, then a "point," followed by "01" for the first topic, "02" for the second topic, such as ENGL 53.01. Every time the topic is offered the same Catalog number is used.

Why go to all this work? Some departments and programs have found the two-digit numbering system too restrictive and this provides additional opportunities for expansion. It is now possible to cross-list individual special

topics with specific distribution and/or world culture attributes with courses from other departments/programs. Best of all, we will now be able to put course descriptions for all courses into Banner, allowing those course descriptions to be distributed to a variety of sites such as department/program websites and the Timetable. See http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/registration/topics_numbering.html for more on the new numbering system and feel free to contact us if

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you are thinking of renumbering a set of courses.

DCARS

Faculty will soon enjoy the benefit of DCARS, Dartmouth's New Course Approval Routing System. No longer will anyone need to guess "who" approves "what" since the on-line workflow follows Dartmouth-specific rules. It not only lessens confusion, it eliminates paper consumption, improves the speed of approval communications, and creates a course database for reference. We are testing the system now, and have demoed it with a few of you; it should be ready for departments and programs to begin using mid-fall. See http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/docs/curricular_guidelines_2013.pdf for a copy of the curricular guidelines that DCARS will follow and we will be in touch to offer training.

Music IIPs

At the request of the Music Department, we have also been **working to redesign the tracking of Individual Performance (IIP) courses that span 3 terms**. Rather than require students to sign a separate contract, the IIP courses are now interrelated as a series of three distinct courses; the first two carry zero credit and are graded with an ON, and the third carries credit and receives a final grade. Students register for the course each term and the course load counts in the final term with the credit. For more information about the new IIP structure, see <http://dartmouth.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2014/orc/Departments-Programs-Undergraduate/Music/MUS-Music-Undergraduate/Individual-Instruction-Program-IIP>

Students & Course Assessment

While faculty continue debating whether or not to allow student access to course assessment on an "opt in" basis, **we have been exploring with Information and Technology Services a prototype in the event that allowing student to view assessments receives faculty support**. Faculty may see this prototype demoed in the fall.

Student Data Warehouse

Finally, we are also engaged in a significant reporting project in collaboration with Information Technology Services and representatives from the other Dartmouth schools to **develop a Student Data Warehouse**. Many of you are already familiar with Banner, and while Banner is a good place to store information for conducting College business, it's not the best place for pulling data to create reports. When complete, this new student data warehouse will offer more expansive opportunities for reporting, including reports that cross schools and measure students' academic progress.

As you can see, in addition to the more visible services we routinely provide to the Dartmouth community, there is a lot going on this summer into fall that is less apparent. Our goal is to create a smooth interface among the various administrative systems we are developing to allow for students and faculty to focus on the learning experience. See http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/docs/course_info_flow.pdf for a graphic illustrating how the different systems will work together. Also I invite you to read our 2013-14 annual report at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/about/annualreport/annual2014.html>

Have a great Fall Term!