SPEAKING EMPHASIS COURSES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What are the General Education goals and student learning outcomes (SLOs) required in a Speaking Emphasis course?**

A Speaking Emphasis course must be designed to meet General Education Goal 1, *Communicate Effectively* and Goal 2, *Think Critically and Analytically*, of the General Education Program. At least two SLOs for Goal 1 should be selected, and at least one SLO for Goal 2 should be selected.

**What are the criteria that a Speaking Emphasis course must meet?**

Based on the criteria approved by CAPC in 2019, a Speaking Emphasis course must meet 9 criteria at the time of CAPC approval and in each instance the course it taught. Please refer to the criteria section in the "Speaking Emphasis Course Guidelines".

**How many oral communication assignments should be included in a Speaking Emphasis course?**

A Speaking Emphasis course should include at least three different assignments designed to assess the development of oral communication skills. Fewer assignments may be allowed for certain 400-level courses if these assignments are substantial in nature.

**What forms of communication are allowed when completing the oral communication assignments?**

The oral communication assignments can be carried out in a variety of forms ranging from speaker-audience interactions (i.e. public speaking), to dyadic interactions (i.e. one-on-one interactions), to group interactions, to even mediated interactions (oral interactions that take place across a technological medium). It is the course instructor's discretion to choose the forms of communication that can best help develop designed oral communication skills.

**How much oral communication work is required in order for a course to qualify as Speaking Emphasis course?**

There is no upper or lower threshold for the portion of coursework allocated to oral communication. However, a Speaking Emphasis course must demonstrate a substantial focus on developing students' oral communication skills. In addition, a Speaking Emphasis course syllabus should contain class schedule showing the prominence of oral communication related lectures and activities.

**How big is each oral communication assignment?**

There is no length requirement for each oral communication assignment. However, each oral communication assignment should give students a meaningful opportunity to practice oral

communication and receive feedback. In addition, the course instructor must provide students with coaching and opportunities for improvement in the oral communication assignments.

**Could a Speaking Emphasis course be taught online?**

Yes. An online Speaking Emphasis course must include at least one synchronous forms of communication in the completion of the oral communication assignments (e.g., live presentation or conference call as opposed to asynchronous communication such as recorded video).

**What are the specific communication skills to be developed in a Speaking Emphasis course?**

Speaking Emphasis courses must be designed to develop students' oral communication skills in ways that are deemed important and desirable within a specific academic discipline or more generally across disciplines. The communication skills can be general (i.e. skills that can be generalized across a broad range of communication contexts such as developing students' abilities to construct a cogent oral argument) or more focused within a specific academic discipline (e.g. a Speaking Emphasis course within the Nursing major might focus on developing students' abilities to establish rapport with patients through one-on-one interactions).

**How different is teaching a Speaking Emphasis course?**

Certain requirements are unique for instructors teaching a Speaking Emphasis course. Some of the unique requirements include: (1) The course instructor must identify which particular oral communication skills each assignment is designed to develop; (2) The course instructor must use a rubric for each oral communication assignment that explains how students are to be assessed; (3) The course instructor must provide explicit instructions on how to demonstrate proficiency with the identified oral communication skills; (4) The course instructor must provide coaching and feedback in the oral communication assignments; and (5) The course instructor must provide opportunities for students to demonstrate improvement on the oral communication skills. All the information should be provided to the students in advance and in the course syllabus.

**Could a Speaking Emphasis course carry more than one General Education designation?**

A Speaking Emphasis course can carry as many designations as desired, so long as it is approved for each designation it carries.

**How many credits are allowed for a Speaking Emphasis course?**

There is no limitation as long as the number of credits is allowed by CAPC. Thus, it is possible to have 1-credit Speaking Emphasis courses.

**Is it a good idea to develop a course with both Writing Emphasis designation and Speaking Emphasis designation?**

Certainly, there are advantages for a course to have both designations. A carefully designed assignment can incorporate writing and speaking into one, and meet the requirements for both. Keep in mind that each designation will be approved separately. In addition, the course instructor must meet all the requirements of Writing Emphasis and Speaking Emphasis in the course delivery. An extremely large amount of work is expected for the course instructor and the students.

**Are there certain types of courses better suited as Speaking Emphasis designation?**

All the courses have Speaking Emphasis potential, but certain courses are more feasible among others in becoming Speaking Emphasis courses. Faculty should first examine if the course can help develop students' oral communication skills that are important for them.

**Could an internship course have Speaking Emphasis designation?**

Yes, as long as the internship course meets the Speaking Emphasis course criteria judged by CAPC.

**Are there resources available for planning a Speaking Emphasis course?**

General Education Council's website has a collection of sample course rubrics, common speaking bibliography, and a Speaking Emphasis Handbook for reference.