

Guidelines for Setting Course Enrollment Limits

The faculty and administration share the responsibility for offering a curriculum in which student enrollments are equitable across the curriculum. Rather than a set of regulations, however, we have relied on a working consensus between academic departments and academic administration. The following points summarize the current expectations. The lower number indicates the minimum expected course cap.

100 level courses (with the exception of language courses): 30-40 students

100 level language courses: 24-30 students

200 level courses: 24-40 students.

For 100-200 level course using a lecture/lab or lecture/discussion section format, the lab or discussion sections can provide the smaller classroom experience we want to provide our students while the lecture section can be larger.

300-400 level courses: 18-30 students.

Gateway, Senior Seminars, and Capstone Courses: 16-20 students

Writing Intensive Courses: 18-20 students

Classes at any level with enrollments of ten or less may be canceled and the faculty member reassigned to a new course or section.

In some instances a department can make a case that a unique lower division course warrants an enrollment limit lower than 30. A course for majors that introduces the methodology of a discipline might be an example. But in making such a case there should be a compensating spirits of quid pro quo and a willingness to take a few more students elsewhere. These lower division courses are also expected not to exceed enrollments of 40, except under the specified conditions.

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