

GRE ISSUE Fiona 高分范文点评

5 分

文章来源：Magoosh

Prompt

Universities should require students to take courses only within those fields they are interested in studying.

Instructions

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

Student's essay

The ongoing debate about whether a university should require students to take courses only within their fields of study or take extra classes to fulfill graduation requirements is an interesting one. There are many valid arguments to each side and it is not a simple black or white choice when deciding who is right. However, by requiring students to only take courses within their major, it allows for students focus on taking classes that are only applicable to their future careers and allows them to save money in a time where saving money is equally important to a college degree. (这里两个观点，引领了一下的第一第二论证段，但是第三论证段却完全没有提到。这使得第三论证段的让步部分成为了一个 surprise.)

(这段的开头核心句不是很清晰，没有一种一目了然的感觉) In many situations, students will finish high school and go on to college with an idea of what they want to do with their life. For students who are in majors such as engineering or the a science field such as chemistry or biology, it is important to for them to stay on top of all of their course work because of the higher number of courses that they must take in order to fulfill the university requirements for a degree. Many of these students knew before they entered college that this would be the case and

gladly accepted that challenge, however by requiring students to take extra general education classes to fulfill their diploma requirements seems counter intuitive to a level of education where students are beginning to focus and narrow in on their future career goals. By forcing say a engineering student to take music theory or British literature just simply to fulfill a general education requirement and having that class conflict with a engineering major course seems to prevent these students from coming to college and fully obtaining their goal as quickly as possible. (这一段确实观点句不明确，最后 concluding sentence 和之前的核心句也不照应。Concluding sentence 部分强调的是速度 quickly，开头部分感觉强调的是 focus，因为课程数量多，累。)

The other aspect to consider is the financial aspect. In many of these situations, the students are under pressure to finish their degree as soon as possible because of many state budget cuts to education which limit the number of classes offered with in their major. Not only does this mean extra classes that students must take and thus more money they have to spend because tuition is usually based on a per unit fee, forcing these extra classes upon can have a longer impact if they are forced to stay longer in college than they originally assumed they would. College already charges an extremely large amount to attend and that already does not take into account the other expenses that students have to pay (such as room and board, food, and books), but adding on extra semester, quarters, or even years because a student had to take general education classes instead of strictly major classes is an unfair system to put a student through.

(这一段开头句虽然清晰，但是这个学生有个很明显的问题，就是思维非常窄，两段说的都很有道理，但是都窄，比如这一段，一大段就是论证一个简单的“多选课要花更多的钱”。虽然是一个 valid point，但是缺乏广度，可以从 finance 的角度再扩展一下，比如扩展到带给学生眼下 finance 的影响和未来求职时候 finance 的影响。)

As with any situation though, there are always exceptions to the rule. For one not every student enters college with the same career focus and direction as their peers. Many students will come into college unsure of the direction they want to take and many students who think they know what direction they want to go, end up changing their minds (sometimes multiple times). By requiring students to

take classes from a broad range of spectrums, Universities can help students narrow down what career path they may want to follow. Many times students may have a preconceived notion of what a subject may be about and not want to try it, yet by requiring it, they may be able to find themselves in a new class with something they may choose to pursue in the future, something they perhaps never would have considered. There is also something to be said about being able to take higher education classes simply for the benefit of wanting to learn about something that interests you. College allows you to do that and by making it a requirement, it allows students a bigger chance to do that. (一段非常 surprise 的段落，起因是开头段的 thesis statement 没有提到。同时，这里显得观点非常不明确。)

There is also something to be said about being able to take higher education classes simply for the benefit of wanting to learn about something that interests you. College allows you to do that and by making it a requirement, it allows students a bigger chance to do that. 这一句好像是在支持 college 应该去强行要求一样。)

Overall though, universities that force students to take upwards of 10-12 general education classes just to fulfill a requirement for their diploma seems unfair.

When a student comes into college with a specific end game in site, the universities should not hinder their goals by overloading them with extra requirements and instead focus on helping them obtain their goals as quickly as possible. The time and financial benefits that could be reaped by not requiring students to take these classes could have a direct impact on the success of all students as well as the future communities they intend to help. (结尾处照应了第一二论证端，还是忽略了第三论证段。)

(整篇文章从语言上来看，属于清晰的完成了任务，令人 confusing 的句子不多，总体语言读起来是清楚的，语法错误少。但是，正如底下 grader 也提到的，没有华丽的句子，没有高逼格的句式，也没有 flamboyant 的词汇，正如 grader 所说“Large”, “bigger”, etc. could be spiced up a little more: “astronomical”, “excessive”, etc.)

这篇文章 5 分，总体是因为 instruction 照顾到了，内容没有跑题，论证还是比较紧凑的，虽然有以上的错误，但是仍然可以拿到一个还不错的分数。

My analysis

Score: 5.0

This essay covers most of the bases: it offers analysis on both sides of the issue, it throws in a few sentences that address the specific instructions, and it, for the most part, clearly articulates a position. The essay does not wow with thorough analysis, great sentence variety (or indeed any stylistic flourishes). In other words, it gets the job done without making too many missteps.

While I award this essay a '5', there are moments when that score seems shaky. This is not mainly due to the ideas (though the generalizations don't help: "As with any situation though, there are always exceptions to the rule"); at times the sentences become overloaded and tend to digress.

Word choice could have also been a little more dynamic. "Large", "bigger", etc. could be spiced up a little more: "astronomical", "excessive", etc.

In addition to making the sentence more readable, and varying up the syntax a little, the essay could have been improved with a little more analysis. I would have like to say more than taking more courses is expensive. Sure, that is a totally valid point, but to spend an entire paragraph on it the overly long first paragraph about students who are not engineers as well.

Additionally, the last body paragraph is confusing: "There is also something to be said about being able to take higher education classes simply for the benefit of wanting to learn about something that interests you. College allows you to do that and by making it a requirement, it allows students a bigger chance to do that." Is the author implying that colleges shouldn't require students to take only course in their field (which would go against the main point of the essay)? And by saying that colleges make "it a requirement" that college require students to take courses outside their field?

Had this paragraph been a little clearer and had the writer expanded the scope of the financial issue, this essay—along with a little more dynamic writing and sentence variety—could get at least a definitive '5', if not a '5.5'.

