



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
Low Enrollment Course Review  
December 31, 2015

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## Background

Amended Substitute House Bill 64, effective 9/29/2015, includes the following requirement for the review of low enrollment courses and programs:

**ORC 3345.35 Course evaluation based on enrollment and performance.**

*Not later than January 1, 2016, and by the first day of January of every fifth year thereafter, the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education, as defined in section [3345.011](#) of the Revised Code, shall evaluate all courses and programs the institution offers based on enrollment and student performance in each course or program. For courses with low enrollment, as defined by the chancellor of higher education, the board of trustees shall evaluate the benefits of collaboration with other institutions of higher education, based on geographic region, to deliver the course.*

In a correspondence dated Nov. 2, 2015, Chancellor John Carrey of the Ohio Department of Education provided the guidance on the following issues related to the above requirement:

- the challenges associated with defining low enrollment courses and programs;
- the chancellor's definition of low enrollment courses;
- factors to be considered in recommending actions for courses that fall below the chancellor's definition of low enrollment; and
- a reporting format that complies with the requirements of Section 3345.35. of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Chancellor defined low enrollment as follows:

*A single numerical definition of **low enrollment courses** is problematic because courses contribute to institutions in different ways (e.g., institutional quality, service to multiple majors, student need), and because courses have widely varying contexts and costs. That being said, most colleges and universities have set **thresholds** below which courses will be not be offered. These thresholds often differ within and across institutions based on pedagogical factors related to discipline (professional courses Vs. general education courses), course level (lower division Vs. upper division or undergraduate Vs. graduate), or resources (cost, availability of faculty or practicum supervisors, availability of facilities).*

*To comply with the legislation, the Chancellor is defining **low enrollment courses** as course sections that fall below 20% above the institutionally-defined threshold for that course section over two or more semesters.*

The Chancellor's correspondence also provided the following guidance for submission of low enrollment course information. By January 31, 2016 each board of trustees shall submit its findings to the Chancellor, the submission should be comprised of:

- *Institutional definitions of course and program thresholds;*
- *A description of the process and data used to identify courses that meet the chancellor's definition of low enrollments, e.g.,*
  - *Number of courses reviewed;*
  - *Number of courses determined to meet the chancellor's definitions of low enrollment;*

- A summary of recommended actions for each low enrollment course (e.g., number of courses targeted for elimination because of curricular restructuring, modification of course section or timing; or collaboration with other institutions through course sharing).

## Wright State Low Enrollment Definitions

Wright State does not have formal thresholds that serve as lower bounds for offering courses. The determination to offer a course depends on many factors. Primary factors include student demand and facilitating progression in meeting curricular requirements and degree completion. There are many classes in the course catalog that have no enrollment requirements such as applied music lessons, independent study, thesis research, dissertation research, etc. The low enrollment course analysis will be restricted to standard courses offered in a lecture, lecture/lab or online mode. For these courses, the following thresholds have been used for this analysis.

Threshold	Low Enrollment	Course level
5	5 or fewer	7000/8000/9000 level courses
10	11 or fewer	3000- 4000-5000-6000
20	23 or fewer	1000-2000

For courses offered dually offered at the 3000-5000 level and the 4000-6000 levels, the enrollment is considered to be the total number students in the dually listed classes. The number of sections offered and enrollment averages for the 2014-2015 are given in the tables below.

Main Campus Courses Summary		
College/Type/Course	Total Number of Classes	Avg. Enrollment of Total Classes
<b>0000-2000 Level</b>		
Lecture	1418	39.2
Lecture/Lab Combination	291	28.0
Lecture/Recitation Combination	17	35.2
<b>3000-6000 Level</b>		
Lecture	1535	23.5
Lecture/Lab Combination	235	12.9
<b>7000-9000 Level</b>		
Lecture	714	14.6
Lecture/Lab Combination	55	16.0

Lake Campus Courses Summary		
College/Type/Course	Total Number of Classes	Avg. Enrollment of Total Classes
<b>0000-2000 Level</b>		
Lecture	231	20.0
Lecture/Lab Combination	95	17.0
Lecture/Recitation Combination	2	14.0
<b>3000-6000 Level</b>		
Lecture	123	10.8
Lecture/Lab Combination	24	8.7
<b>7000-9000 Level</b>		
Lecture	3	8.3

### Low Enrollment Course Tabulation

The following table shows the number of low enrollment courses identified for each threshold and course level and the recommendations for provided by each of the academic Colleges.

Level 1000-2000	Level 3000-6000	Level 7000-9000	Recommendation	Rationale
155	88	16	No action	Appropriate course size
92	251	35	No action	Needed for on-time graduation
4	13	20	No action	Growth expected
7	1	5	Course elimination	
6	17	12	Reduction in frequency	
6	7	1	Change in course modality	

### Courses Considered for Collaboration

The following courses have identified by the Colleges for potential collaboration with other regional institutions of higher education.

Main campus courses	Lake campus courses	
All Arabic courses	ASL2010	OIS2040
All Chinese courses	ASL2020	OIS2080
All French courses	ED1100	TEG2910
All German courses	COM2460	TEG2920
All Greek courses	PHL2040	TEG2940

All Latin courses	PHL2150	BIO2110
All Spanish courses	PLS2510	BIO2310
	REL2040	BMB2500
	SW2700	CHM1010
	SW2710	CHM1060
	COM2410	PHY1110
	FAS2300	PHY1120
	OIS1040	STT2640
	FAS2110	PHY2460
	OIS1230	

## SOCHE

Wright State is a member of the Southwestern Council for Higher Education (SOCHE), a consortium of 22 public and private institutions in Southwestern Ohio. SOCHE member institutions support a cross registration process, a multi-institutional course sharing agreement. A student enrolled in a degree or certificate program at one SOCHE institution may take a class at any other SOCHE institution that is applicable program that is not offered at the student's home institution in the given academic term. Students enrolling in courses through SOCHE pay the tuition of their home institution. The following table shows Wright State's participation in SOCHE cross registration in the 2014-2015 academic year.

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

<u>FALL 2014</u>					
<u>WSU TO OTHER SCHOOLS</u>	<u># STUDENTS</u>	<u>CLASSES TAKEN</u>	<u>OTHERS ATTENDING WSU</u>	<u># STUDENTS</u>	<u>CLASSES TAKEN</u>
University of Dayton	19	23 additional classes	University of Dayton	5	26 different classes
Clark State	3	total	Clark State	6	taken total
Sinclair	8		Sinclair	4	
AFIT	1		AFIT	3	
Central State	1		Antioch College	1	
Term Total:	32		Cedarville	1	
			Miami University	1	
			Term Total:	21	
<u>SPRING 2015</u>					
University of Dayton	7	22 different classes	Clark State	1	19 different classes
Clark State	1	taken total	Sinclair	6	taken total
Sinclair	13		AFIT	2	
AFIT	2		Central State	6	
Cedarville	1		Urbana	3	
Term Total:	24		Antioch College	1	
			Term Total:	19	
<u>SUMMER 2015</u>					
University of Dayton	13	9 different classes	Sinclair	1	8 different classes
Clark State	1	taken total	AFIT	1	taken total
AFIT	3		Central State	2	
Term Total:	17		Antioch College	4	
			Kettering College	1	
			Term Total:	9	