

From: Mahesh Krishnamurthy, Nick Menhart, and Sang Baum “Solomon” Kang
 To: Undergraduate Studies Committee (UGSC)
 Re: Reinstatement of the I-Course Pilot Program

Dear [Fred Weening](#),

We would like to request the reinstatement of a revised I-Course Pilot Program. So, we would like to add it to the agenda of the next UGSC meeting.

How was the previous I-Course program defined?

- An I-Course was an academic unit’s (e.g., business, math, ...) course that also satisfies the IPRO learning objectives.
- In the bulletin, an I-Course was listed as an academic unit’s course but can count toward IPRO requirements.
- The IPRO committee (currently, Interdisciplinary Committee) approved an I-Course.

	(Previous) iCourse 1.0	(Proposed) iCourse 2.0
How it is defined	An academic unit’s (e.g., business, math, ...) course that also satisfies the IPRO’s learning objectives.	An <u>IPRO course</u> that also satisfies an academic unit’s (e.g., business, math, ...) learning objectives for an elective.
Bulletin listing	An academic unit’s course but can count toward IPRO requirements.	An IPRO course that can count towards the AU course requirements at the AU’s discretion.
Who can propose an IPRO	Faculty from AU teaches the elective course. Course typically already meets AU and was fine-tuned to meet IPRO objectives.	Faculty from the AU propose the IPRO such that they meet all the tech elective learning objectives.
Format of the course	Can be lecture based with elements of experiential learning, usually in teams.	Coaching model, with an experiential focus and exclusively in teams. No individual projects.
Class composition	Typically only meant for students with a single major.	Focused around AU thrust, but includes a path for students from other majors to participate.

Approval for cross-listing	Faculty proposed (existing or new course) to AU for approval. AU proposed the course to be listed as an I-course. IPRO committee (currently, Interdisciplinary Committee) approved them.	Faculty works with AU to propose to the IPRO office, who will work with proposer to develop. Approval for IPRO by IPRO office. Each AU has the discretion to approve any IPRO, including regular IPROs and courses developed in this fashion, to count in their curriculum.
Course support	As a tech elective, the course was fully supported by the AU. No ownership from IPRO office / KI.	As an IPRO, the course receives full support from IPRO office / KI, including industry partnership opportunities, marketing and such.
End of semester deliverables	Expected- Innovation day presentation, was very difficult to ask students to present outside the classroom.	Clear team-based deliverables presented on Innovation Day. Prototypes, solutions and any related outcomes welcome.
Can students get credits for tech elective and IPRO?	Yes (there was some confusion)	Yes. UGSC needs to set policy on double counting. Total program requirement must be met.
Are TAs supported?	AU's discretion	Follows IPRO guidelines for course support based on enrollment.
Can the course count as part of FT teaching load?	Yes	Needs a University-wide policy to ensure scalability.
Long-term prospects and predictability in offering	High, since it is a tech elective.	Needs commitment from AU.
Could the I-Course be adopted across multiple AUs?	Not typical.	Yes. All AUs are given the list of IPROs and even if one was not offered by their faculty, they can use it as an elective if they choose to. This is strengthened by a long-term offering plan.

Why is the I-Course program valuable?

- The I-Course program can encourage full-time faculty to participate in interdisciplinary education. An I-Course can count toward a full-time professor's regular teaching load. Because an I-course can serve as a major course, it is less burdensome to department heads who hire full-time faculty and are responsible for the academic unit's finances.
- The I-Course program encourages registration from other academic units.
- Academic units know what their students are interested in. Successful I-Courses increase students' satisfaction level of interprofessional education.
- The I-Course program is well designed and is compatible with incentives of the IPRO program, academic units, full-time faculty, and students. **However, empirical questions remain: Can a single course be effective in satisfying the learning objectives of the IPROs and also electives in multiple departments? Have I-Courses increased students' satisfaction and buy-in of interprofessional learning?**
- **Such a plan could give a student flexibility to take courses that might not be possible with a rigid course schedule.**

When was it terminated?

- The original I-Course pilot ended in May 2023.
- The last extension of the I-Course program was until May 2023.
- After May 2023, Joe Gorzkowski (Academic Affairs) made an exception to accommodate students and faculty that needed it.

Why do we need to reinstate it?

- 1) There are already good I-Courses in academic units that the current students have been taking. Academic advisors recommended I-Courses without knowing that the I-Course program has technically terminated. **We should not penalize those students.**
- 2) We want to gather **more data** for assessments for the I-Course programs.
- 3) We would like to further test the model that an instructor in an academic unit proposes an I-Course to meet requirements for both major and IPRO requirements. This should be a cost-effective and distributed way of developing courses accomplishing IPRO's goals.
- 4) We have implemented a distributed model with Applied Math this semester, which is different from the original iCourse model. This could help us accomplish the overarching goal of allowing more flexibility for students in the allocated 120 credits. It will allow the structure of AU-specific objectives to be combined with open-ended problem solving that IPROs bring.
- 5) We would like to create a plan that includes all stakeholders to ensure structure and scalability.

Until when do we want to leave it as a pilot program?

- Until sufficient data is available for empirically testing alternatives

Other ideas?

- We may consider cross listing the academic unit's course and IPRO.

- Few Business Courses are co-convened with IPRO courses. This means both courses share lectures and meeting times, but are given credits separately. This is effective in bringing students from unconventional majors into the class with minimal effort, but students cannot get credits for both courses. They have to pick one.

If you need more information, please feel free to contact us.

Appendix:

What defines an IPRO:

- Impact
- Industry connection (problem identification)
- End of semester pitch competition
- Potential for productization
- Work in small teams
- Innovation day presentation

What defines an iCourse:

- Problem identification
- Focus on their major area (technology) with an inter-disciplinary approach
- Pathway for students from other majors to take the course
- Innovation day presentation