Task force on CAS requirements

2023-2024 Executive Summary and Recommendations

We first looked at requirements for colleges of arts & science at benchmark universities. We found that all of them required courses in the humanities, the social sciences, and natural sciences, and all required three or four courses in a world language other than English.

We had lots of discussion about the language requirement. We noted that both the number of students taking language placement tests and the enrollment in 202 courses has decreased. What is the goal of the requirement, and should the requirement change? Foreign language curricula are unique in that they provide intercultural communication skills, one way we learn about other cultures. We do think the study of foreign language is a vital part of our liberal arts curriculum. We are open to further discussion of possible changes to this requirement.

Nearly half of the faculty in CAS responded to a survey about the requirements in Fall 2023. Most people say we should change our requirements, but when asked about each requirement individually most people want to keep them, except that people want to re