UNIVERSITY *of*
NORTHERN COLORADO

To the LAC Committee,

As the program director of University 101, Foundations for Learning and Development, I am requesting that the course be moved from its current location in LAC electives to Area 5C Social and Behavioral Sciences: Geography and Human and Social Systems. The following addresses how this course contributes to the LAC curriculum.

Currently, this area does not offer courses or these learning outcomes as they relate to the student (and humans) specifically as a learner and beginning scholar. Foundations for Learning and Development is based on the literature and research within educational psychology. Each unit begins with readings that challenge students to consider theories of human behavior that are supported by research (e.g., goal theories, motivation theories, etc.). From this point, students gain awareness by determining how these theories apply to them (or not) within their transition as both college students and young adults. With awareness, students are then given the tools to apply these ideas to their current experiences.

Although challenging their perspectives, recognizing other perspectives, and promoting higher levels of critical thinking is integrated throughout the course, specific units and assessments directly address the learning outcomes for Area 5. Some examples include liberal arts education, metacognition and self-regulation, diversity and the research project. Attached within this portfolio is the syllabus, which includes course-level outcomes, as well as documents that include outcomes for each unit. I have also attached two assessments, the goals paper and the research project. The research project is a semester-long assessment and we partner with the library early in the semester to teach students how to search for sources as well as how to evaluate them. I have also attached a brief excerpt from the textbook the course uses.

Another consideration in moving this course to Area 5 is accessibility for a wider range of students. Currently, some of the more prescribed majors (e.g., nursing) have more difficulty in taking the course as an LAC elective. This particular program has stated that it would be easier to fold this course into their current education plan as an Area 5 course. This will also help other students (such as veterans) receive financial aid when taking the course.

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When first introduced this course was primarily targeting freshmen students; however, we have evolved to serve students at all levels. In the fall, we do have sections that are open to only entering freshmen but also offer sections year round for all students. Please let me know if further information is required. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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