

Student Issues with Anchor/Discourse Pairings (relayed by Academic Advisors in A&S Advising)

Issues with Student Confusion:

- Prospective and new transfer students can be very confused by our General Education Core; especially for prospective students, their status for Anchor I and II upon transfer can be difficult to project unless they plan to complete an Associate of Arts (in KS or MO)
- Current students are not able to see which Discourse sections are paired with which Anchor sections in Pathway, so they are constantly attempting to register in mismatched sections; then they get an error message that says they don't meet the pre-requisites (even though they do meet pre-requisites); the only place that a student can view the Anchor/Discourse pairings is on the Core website (umkc.edu/core)

Issues with Availability:

- Need does not match availability, which causes students to delay taking courses, which may cause delay in graduation
- Often there are available seats in Anchor but not in the paired Discourse; sometimes there are seats in Discourse but not the paired Anchor
- Students often have restricted schedules (due to work or other obligations) which makes it more difficult to find an available Anchor/Discourse pair
- Students sometimes have a class required by the major that conflicts with Anchor III/Discourse III offerings
- Offerings of Anchor & Discourse III have been especially limited, as they are required by all transfer (and native) students, so the demand is high
- Students who have completed Anchor II but not Discourse II have very limited unpaired Discourse II options
- Student wants to take an Anchor that does not have a Discourse available that works with their schedule. This may cause them to take Anchor they are not as interested in, and as such may not be as engaged in or do as well in.

Issues with Adding/Dropping Pairings:

- If student wants to switch one within the first few days of class they have to switch both and find an open pair, which is nearly impossible.
- If student wants to drop one early on, they must drop the other, causing them to need to find two open alternate courses to maintain full-time enrollment.
- If student maintains enrollment until able to drop only one, and are not able to fill schedule with a second 8-week course, that student's SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress, for Financial Aid) is negatively affected.

Issues for International Students:

- An International student who wants to take ALL section of Discourse but struggles in the paired Anchor cannot switch only the Anchor.
- An International student is sometimes restricted in first semester academic coursework (if coming out of ESL or still working on ESL coursework) and is restricted to one Anchor class that does not work in their schedule

Content Issue:

- Students report content (for most Anchor/Discourse pairings) does not overlap, or at least not significantly.