

**From:** [Steele, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Pinsonneault, Marc](#); [Schlingman, Wayne M.](#); [Leroy, Adam](#); [Martini, Paul](#)  
**Cc:** [Ottesen, Jennifer](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** Astronomy 5550  
**Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:52:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

On Wednesday, Feb. 8th, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for Astronomy 5550.

The Panel did not vote on the proposal as they would like the following points addressed:

- a. The Panel asks that the department provide more information in the syllabus about the “collaborative assignments” (syllabus pg. 2 under “Grading Information”). Since these assignments will make up over half of students’ grades, the Panel would like the syllabus to provide more comprehensive information to students, including the following:

The Panel asks that the department clarify for students whether the group work will take place in class, outside of class or a combination of both.

The Panel requests that the department give more detail about the makeup of the groups, such as how and when they will be assigned, and whether students will work with the same group throughout the semester or be re-assigned to different groups for each project.

The Panel asks that the department provide information on how group work will be evaluated.

The Panel asks that the department specify what deliverables will look like for the assignments (i.e. a presentation, a written document, etc.)

The panel asks that the group work be placed onto the weekly topical outline (syllabus pg. 2-3) to support an understanding of the amount of work that is expected of students.

- b. The Panel asks that the department include in the syllabus a statement about what devices/technologies the students will need to be successful in the course. If no special equipment is needed, they ask that this be stated in the syllabus.
- c. The Panel asks that a curriculum map be provided for the Astronomy and Astrophysics major that includes Astronomy 5550. (The document uploaded to curriculum.osu.edu and labeled as the curriculum map is actually a 4-year plan for undergraduate students.) A curriculum map shows how, and at what level (e.g., beginning, intermediate, advanced) each the program’s courses facilitate students’ attainment of program learning goals. A table format is recommended, and a sample template for a curriculum map can be found in Appendix 10 of the ASCC Curriculum Handbook (<https://ascas.osu.edu/curriculum/asc-operations-manual>) on pg. 78. Curriculum Maps are required to be updated each time a unit submits a new course that can be counted in their major.
- d. The Panel recommends that the department consider whether linear algebra (Math 2568) should be a pre-requisite for this course given the topics covered in the course calendar (syllabus pg. 2-3).
- e. The Panel recommends that the department consider whether experience with the Python programming language (as mentioned on pg. 1 of the syllabus) should be a formal prerequisite for the class (CSE 1224), or at least be mentioned in the course description (Course Request Form under “General Information”). If an introduction to Python is covered in both Astronomy 3350 and Physics 3700, the Panel understands that a formal pre-requisite may not be necessary.

- f. The Panel recommends that the department remove the reference to the “standard OSU grading scale” (syllabus pg. 2 under “Grading Information”) as Ohio State does not have a standard grading scale; instructors are free to choose any scale that best meets the needs of their particular course.

I will return Astronomy 5550 to the department queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the Panel’s requests.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the Panel, please feel free to contact Jennifer Ottesen (faculty Chair of the NMS Panel; cc’d on this e-mail), or me.

Best,  
Rachel



**Rachel Steele, MA**

(Pronouns: she/her/hers / Honorific: Ms.)

Program Manager, Office of Curriculum and Assessment

**College of Arts and Sciences**

306 Dulles Hall 230 Annie and John Glenn Ave. Columbus, OH 43210

(614) 688-4540

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