

**From:** [Steele, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Pinsonneault, Marc](#); [Schlingman, Wayne M.](#); [Leroy, Adam](#)  
**Cc:** [Ottesen, Jennifer](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** Astronomy 5550  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 11:26:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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Good evening,

On Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for Astronomy 5550.

The Panel unanimously approved the request with two contingencies, three recommendations, and one comment:

- a. **Contingency:** Per university policy ([https://ascnet.osu.edu/storage/meeting\\_documents/2085/New%20Course%20-%20Sought%20Occurrence%20-%20Administrative%20Resource%20Center.pdf](https://ascnet.osu.edu/storage/meeting_documents/2085/New%20Course%20-%20Sought%20Occurrence%20-%20Administrative%20Resource%20Center.pdf)), the Panel asks that the department obtain a concurrence from the Department of Statistics. The Panel extends their sincere apologies to the department, as this concurrence should have been requested after the first review of the course; however, they note that the course will be sent back at the next level of approval (Office of Academic Affairs) if concurrence is not obtained at this time.
- b. **Contingency:** The Panel recognizes that the department added Math 2568 to the course prerequisites in the revised syllabus. They further ask that the department add Math 2568 to the course's pre-requisites on curriculum.osu.edu, as the information in curriculum.osu.edu dictates what is published in the course catalog and visible to students when registering for courses.
- c. **Recommendation:** The Panel recommends that the department adjust the Grading Information (syllabus pg. 2), as the "sub-percentages" that make up the 60% of the course grade for the group assignments do not add up to 100%.
- d. **Recommendation:** The Panel suggests that the department modify the Curriculum Map to clarify whether Astronomy 5550 can be used in the major. On the current map, 5550 is labeled as an "elective", meaning that it's one of several classes that students can choose from to satisfy a major requirement. However, as it is the only elective option listed on the Curriculum Map, the Panel was unsure about its function; they offer the following scenarios/solutions as likely possibilities:
  - i. If 5550 is now one of the courses that students can choose from to satisfy the "Required 5000-level course (pick one)" requirement, then Astronomy 5550 should be listed with Astronomy 5205, 5681, and 5682 in the second subsection of the map.
  - ii. If 5550 *may* be taken by undergraduate students but does not meet any major requirements (i.e., if it *cannot* be counted toward the hours required for the major but can *only* be counted toward the 121 credit hours that students need for graduation,) then it should not be a part of the Curriculum Map.
- e. **Recommendation:** The Panel recommends that the department change the terminology used on the Curriculum Map to denote the level at which particular courses meet the goals of the major program from "Light, Intermediate, High" to

“Basic, Intermediate, Advanced”.

- f. Comment: In attempting to understand the function of 5550 within the major (see item “d” above), the Panel discovered that the unit does not appear to have an Advising Sheet on their website (though they did find a list of requirements and a sample four-year plan). They offer the friendly observation that such a sheet would be very useful for students.

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via curriculum.osu.edu before a course can move forward in the approval process. *Recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the course is next taught. 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 Jen 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.)

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