Course Proposal  
UC 120V  
University Curriculum Committee  
Request for Clarification Response

## UC 120V – Foundations of Professionalism – is proposed as a basic course on professionalism which can introduce a general audience to the professional aspects of a career cluster. The course outline is intentionally left as a framework only to allow for appropriate application within differing disciplines. Although general, each career cluster focus must include 1) an overview of the discipline 2) an overview of workplace professional skills and 3) exposure to the career cluster through a hands-on application such as shadowing, specific skills development or field work. The instructor for the course will be assigned by the discipline department. The state-wide Teacher Cadet program is one application for which this course will be used. In this case, the career cluster of education will be explored and internship hours in the school setting are required. A pilot course was utilized this fall.

The Arkansas Techer Cadet Program is an Arkansas Department of Education initiative that seeks to address an increasing teacher shortage in our state. “The **Teacher Cadets Program** is a nationally recognized high school teacher recruitment program aimed at attracting the best and brightest students to the teaching profession. The Program provides a curriculum-based, hands-on approach to educate students on the requirements to become a successful teacher and enables students to put their knowledge to work through a classroom internship” (Arkansas Department of Education).

This course also has a heavy focus on the development of soft skills. Employers suggest college graduates lack certain workplace skills typically referred to as soft skills. Skills cited as being deficient include: communication skills, interpersonal skills, time management, teamwork and cooperation, motivating subordinates, conflict management, and leadership skills (Meenakshi). Neff, Citrin, and Brown noted in their book, *Lessons from the Top: The 50 Most Successful Business Leaders in America--and What You Can Learn From Them,* that eight of the identified top ten tips for being successful in business were concerned with soft skills, while only two of the tips related to hard (academic) skills. Nealy noted, “Because soft skills are critical for productive performance in today’s workplace, current and future business leaders are emphasizing the development of soft skills.”

Meenakshi, S. (2009). How important are soft skills from the recruiter’s perspective. *The Icfai University Journal of Soft Skills*, 3(2), 19-28.

Nealy, C. (2005). Integrating soft skills through active learning in the management classroom.

*Journal of College Teaching & Learning*, *2*(4), 1-6.  
  
Neff, Thomas J., James M. Citrin, and Paul B. Brown. *Lessons from the Top: The 50 Most Successful Business Leaders in America--and What You Can Learn from Them*. New York: Currency/Doubleday, 2001. Print.