

# WOU General Education Update

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*At first people refuse  
to believe that a  
strange new thing can  
be done, then they  
begin to hope it can  
be done, then they see  
it can be done – then  
it is done and all the  
world wonders why it  
was not done  
centuries ago.*

*-Frances Hodgson  
Burnett*

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## **We want your input on team-teaching opportunities:**

First Year Seminars offer an opportunity to build WOU's capacity for team teaching. The General Education Program is seeking faculty input on possible approaches to structuring team teaching, including scheduling and compensation strategies. Send your thoughts and ideas to us at [gened@wou.edu](mailto:gened@wou.edu).

## **Things to know about First Year Seminars**

While prevalent at many liberal arts institutions, First Year Seminars are a new element in the WOU General Education Program. These courses offer an exciting opportunity for engaging students in meaningful ways to promote their college success.

### **First Year Seminars are more than College 101**

First Year Seminars are intended to provide a bridge for students who are new to the college environment and experience. These small, engaging courses allow students to practice foundational skills in the context of a compelling thematic framework. While each seminar will include activities to support the foundational practices, the activities will take shape in the context of the seminar topic.

### **First Year Seminars may be taught once, or more than once**

The goal of the General Education Program is to offer a variety of seminars from units across campus, and we may guide scheduling to maintain diversity in offerings, but there is **no** limitation set on how many times you may request to offer a seminar. The General Education Committee will be considering all requests for how seminar instructors would like to schedule their offerings. These requests will help us provide programming guidelines going forward.

### **First Year Seminars are not the same as W and Q courses**

First Year Seminars include Writing-aligned (FYS 107) and Quantitative-aligned (FYS 207) options. These seminars offer students the opportunity to spend more of their time practicing either writing or quantitative skills, but in a more general and broadly fundamental way than is the case in W and Q courses, which are meant to be more advanced courses within specific disciplines.

### **First Year Seminars allow faculty, staff and students to learn together**

Faculty and staff proposing First Year Seminars should be choosing topics that they find engaging and compelling. It may be that those topics touch on areas outside your immediate areas of expertise. We think this provides an exciting opportunity to model lifelong learning with students and should not preclude topic proposal.

### **First Year Seminars provide opportunities to support students in creative ways**

The thematic nature of First Year Seminars mean that seminar proposers have the opportunity to consider a variety of ways to meet our students' needs. Some of our colleagues are considering building Spanish-language immersion seminars, or seminars that are offered in the evenings to support working students.

### **Want to learn more?**

Attend a First Year Seminar development workshop  
Schedule at <http://www.wou.edu/gened/fys-workshop-schedule/>

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## Proposal Deadlines

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To be included in the 2019-20 catalog, course proposals need to be out of the Division Curriculum queue by:

*Foundational Courses*  
**October 9, 2018**

*Exploring Knowledge*  
**November 13, 2018**

*First Year Seminars*  
**January 8, 2019**

*Integrating Knowledge*  
**February 12, 2019**

Course proposals that do not make these deadlines will be invited to propose for General Education inclusion in the 2020-21 AY catalog.

## What happens to General Education Course Proposals?

If you are proposing a course for inclusion in the General Education Program, the process is a familiar one. All proposals are entered through the curriculum portal. But what happens after you enter your proposal?

### If you are proposing a First Year Seminar

First Year Seminar proposals include a portal notification to department heads and division chairs but are routed straight to the General Education Committee for review.

### If you are proposing to include an existing course to a General Education category

Proposals to include an existing course in any General Education category other than First Year Seminar will be routed through the normal division curriculum process. If there are no modifications, or only minor modifications (a single change involving course title, description, or prerequisites) the proposal will route *only* to the General Education Committee. If there are major modifications (multiple changes involving course title, description, and prerequisites) the proposal will be concurrently reviewed by the General Education and Curriculum Committees.

### If you are proposing a new course to include in a General Education category

Proposals for new courses that will be included in a General Education category other than First Year Seminar will be routed through the normal division curriculum process. These proposals will then be concurrently reviewed by the General Education and Curriculum Committees.

Find more about the curriculum process at

<http://www.wou.edu/facultysenate/committees/curriculum/curricular-guidelines/>

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## General Education Committee Membership:

The General Education Committee will be reviewing course proposals for inclusion in the General Education Program. Each Division has representation and your representative is an excellent resource for communication about the General Education program.

Breeann Flesch, Computer Science, Chair  
Camila Gabaldón, Library  
Leigh Graziano, Humanities  
Rachel Harrington, Education and Leadership  
Shaun Huston, Social Science, First Year Seminar Coordinator  
Ethan McMahan, Behavioral Science  
Bojan Ilievski, Business and Economics  
Brent Redpath, Deaf Studies and Professional Studies  
Daniel Tankersley, Creative Arts  
Jeff Templeton, Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
Gay Timkin, Health and Exercise Science  
Erin Baumgartner, General Education Director (Ex-Officio)