

WOU General Education Update

*In a world where you
can be anything,
be kind*

Anonymous

General Education: Our Kuleana

Kuleana is a Hawaiian word that doesn't have direct English translation, but can be thought of as a deep mutual responsibility and a passion for that responsibility. Consider that we have a kuleana to General Education – we are responsible for building and maintaining a program that provides our students with fundamental skills for lifelong learning (per our mission*). But we also have an expectation that the program, if well cared-for, will meet that mission and empower our students.

The work of the General Education Committee exemplifies the concept of kuleana. These representatives from each Division on campus have taken a great deal of time and care to thoughtfully review the proposals for course inclusion in the program, while still engaging in decision-making around important aspects of the program like transfer articulation and program assessment. These colleagues have taken on General Education as their kuleana.

We hope, as our program takes shape, that kuleana for General Education extends to all corners of campus. General Education is a program that will touch the lives of nearly all our students, and based on the proposals we've seen thus far, includes courses offered from every Division. The program brings us together as a campus and requires that we work together to ensure its success through transparency and professional trust. We look forward to the great things ahead for the program and welcome opportunities to hear from all of our colleagues around campus regarding their experiences, thoughts and ideas to continue to guide the mission fulfillment of General Education.

***General Education Mission**

General Education is a crucial component of the learning experience at Western Oregon University, providing students with fundamental skills for lifelong learning. Students apply, communicate, and integrate ideas from a variety of disciplines. They gain abilities to think and act critically as citizens of a complex and ever-changing world. The curriculum empowers students to pursue diverse interests and perform varying roles in their personal, social, and professional lives.

Proposal Deadlines

To be included in the 2019-20 catalog, course proposals need to be to the General Education Committee by:

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.

Exploring Knowledge Courses have been approved!

On November 20 2018, the General Education committee met to review the first set of proposals for inclusion in the General Education program. The committee reviewed 122 proposals in the Foundations categories. The majority of proposals were approved and moved on to Faculty Senate, including:

- 34 Literary and Aesthetic Perspectives courses
- 35 Scientific Perspectives courses
- 35 Social, Historical and Civic Perspectives courses

Several courses are awaiting final review pending clarification to the committee from the proposing faculty member and input from the registrar.

What if my course didn't make it into the program for the 2018-19 catalog?

We know that some of you may have missed a course proposal deadline, or had a proposal rejected by the General Education Committee, or simply decided you wanted more time to thoughtfully plan alignment of your course to the program category. The good news is that following this year's heavy lift of program building, the General Education Committee will continue to review proposals for inclusion in the program.

Even if your course doesn't make it into next year's catalog, we are working with the registrar's office to ensure that courses articulate so that students starting the program next year will be able to earn General Education credit as courses are added.

As always, faculty and staff proposing courses for inclusion in the General Education program are encouraged and welcomed to contact the General Education office for assistance with proposal building and submission. We don't want your proposal to be rejected or deferred any more than you do, so please don't hesitate to ask for our help.

Team teaching in First Year Seminars

Interested in team teaching? While the details are still being finalized, there will be support for the effort entailed by a fully team-taught course. Please contact the General Education office for information.

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