

10/01/2019

# WOU General Education Update

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*Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking our potential.*

*Winston Churchill*

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## Getting Help for Students

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Students who have a transfer course that needs to be evaluated or other General Education requirement issues like AP credits not being applied in Degree Tracks, can arrange an appointment with the General Education office via Wolf Connect, or visit our drop-in office hours.

Check the [Gen Ed website](#) for updates to drop in office hours!

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## General Education Advising for new students

General Education advising is an important component of academic advising. Some of the coursework in many majors also meets General Education requirements. Students can use those courses in both areas of their degree plans!

### Resources for advising

If you have not had a chance to take advantage of one of our training workshops, contact the General Education office and we'll walk you through all of your advising related questions. You can also check out our resources for advisors and FAQs at <http://www.wou.edu/gened/faculty-resources/for-advisors/>

### Getting started

For all new students, we recommend completion of First Year Seminars and Foundations courses as early as possible. Successful completion of these requirements are correlated with student retention to graduation.

### First Year Seminars

Incoming freshmen should plan to take FYS 107 and FYS 207 in their first year. These courses do not have to be taken in order and may even be taken together in the same term. Students can explore all of the great FYS options and learn more about General Education requirements at <http://www.wou.edu/gened/students/>

### Placement Tests for Mathematics and Writing

Any student may meet their Foundations: Mathematics requirement when they score 61 or higher on the WOU ALEKS Math Assessment in a timed and proctored environment. Students may submit a request for a proctored exam after taking an ALEKS test with an initial practice score of 61 or higher. For more information, go to: <http://www.wou.edu/math/aleks/aleks-gen-ed/>

Many majors require math courses as major requirements which will also fulfill the General Education requirement; Students placing in MTH 95 or lower may need to complete non-credit bearing prerequisites first, depending on the course required in their major.

In Foundations: Writing, WR 121 proficiency can be earned with a score of 560-800 on the writing portion of the SAT and/or a score of 21-30 on the writing portion of the ACT. Students may also request a Writing placement exam to demonstrate proficiency for WR 121 or WR 122. <http://www.wou.edu/english/first-year-writing/>

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## Interested in teaching an FYS?

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First Year Seminar proposals for topics to be taught in 2020-21 are due to the General Education Committee by November 5, 2019.

Learn more at <http://www.wou.edu/gened/faculty-resources/>

Questions? Looking for FYS proposal help? Contact FYS Coordinator Dr. Shaun Huston.

## First Year Seminar Spotlight

As our first group of First Year Seminars launches, one pair of faculty members have developed a learning community opportunity that brings together a writing-focused section of FYS 107 with a quantitative-focused section of FYS 207. Dr. Laurie Burton and Dr. Katherine Schmidt are collaborating to offer the linked learning community: Can our food choices help save the world? In this community, the students register for both courses together and engage in complementary learning experiences to reflect on what it means to eat compassionately and examine the consequences of plant-based diets through investigations and displays of information. Laurie and Katherine describe their planning for students:

*We will have students journal and collect data in FYS 107, learn fun ways to work with and display data in FYS 207, and work in both courses to create digital projects to share their work and learning with others. Of course, we'll also make sure our students learn about our many campus resources that can help them succeed at WOU.*

Interested in building your own learning community opportunity for students? Contact Dr. Shaun Huston, who is leading the learning communities pilot.

## New General Education Classes

In addition to building First Year Seminars, many of our colleagues took the opportunity to conceptualize new course offerings built around the General Education Learning Outcomes. New courses in subjects ranging from Dance to Human Anatomy & Physiology have emerged to help students meet their General Education requirements. We'll be profiling some of these in future months. If you are interested in exploring opportunities to develop a new class for General Education, please let us know how we can help! There are so many opportunities to provide engaging and meaningful opportunities for students. You can also find more information about building a successful course proposal at <http://www.wou.edu/gened/proposalguides/>.

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General Education course proposals for any courses that are not First Year Seminars follow the schedule established by the Registrar's office and Faculty Senate for all course updates to meet the next academic catalog. Refer to <https://www.wou.edu/facultysenate/committees/curriculum/deadlines-and-timing/> for more details.

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