

Implementing Our Revised General Education Program

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We are Implementing this Semester!

- After eight years of work, it's actually happening!
- All students beginning their academic programs from fall 2017 forward will fulfill the requirements of the revised General Education program.
- All students beginning their academic programs prior to fall 2017 will fulfill the requirements of the old General Education program.

How Did We Get Here?

- General Education Taskforce (2009 to 2013)
- Fourteen recommendations
- General Education Coordinator (2014 to 2016)
- Worked with General Education Committee to operationalize the recommendations
 - Clarify and strengthen General Education offerings while involving faculty from **all** colleges
 - Don't break anything (as much as possible)



Recommendation 1

- **Adopt the general education philosophy statement**

General Education at Ferris State University challenges students to be successful citizens of a diverse and globalized world.

- Adopted as written



Recommendation 2

- **Adopt the eighteen university-wide Ferris Learning Outcomes with defining criteria**

Culture, Self and Society, Global, Natural Science, Technology, Information, Critical Reasoning, Quantitative Literacy, Creative Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, Financial Literacy, Civic Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion, Ethics, Lifelong Learning, Health and Wellness, Integrative Learning.

- Reorganized into eight core competencies



Recommendation 3

- **Adopt a comprehensive plan for assessing the General Education Program**
- A comprehensive assessment plan has been created using standardized measures and reporting tools
- Different than the plan envisioned by the taskforce
- An information session will be held in UCB 217 at 1:30 pm today



Recommendation 4

- **Retain the existing general education course requirements and credit hour distributions as modified by recommendations 5-9 as follows**
- The existing requirements are maintained with a few changes as indicated in the following slides



Recommendation 5

- **Deliberately introduce freshmen to the Ferris Learning Outcomes by modifying ENGL 150 and some sections of COMM 121 to include a description of the Ferris Learning Outcomes, to begin specifically addressing some FLO criteria, and to begin the development of a student portfolio. Courses from other universities that meet the same writing requirements as ENGL 150 will still transfer in as meeting the ENGL 150 requirement.**
- Not implemented.



Recommendation 6

- **Add a senior-level requirement in which students integrate their prior coursework and experiences in general education, majors, and co-curriculum within the context of the Ferris Learning Outcomes. The portfolio that students begin to develop as freshmen will be an important option for demonstrating this integration of learning. The intent is that this requirement be met in an existing senior-level course(s) within the major. Major programs will be responsible for oversight of this requirement.**
- Added Collaboration and Problem Solving competencies to all programs regardless of college



Recommendation 7

- Change the Quantitative Literacy requirement to read: “For students entering before or during Fall 2017, MATH 115 or higher with MATH 117 recommended for students in majors that do not require MATH 115 or MATH 116.”
- To meet the Quantitative Literacy competency, a student must meet **one** of the following:
 - Complete or received credit for 1 course, MATH 114 or higher, with the Quantitative Literacy attribute
 - Submission of an official Accuplacer score of 50 or higher in college level math
 - Submission of an official SAT math score of 580 or higher
 - Submission of an official ACT math subtest score of 24 or higher



Recommendation 8

- Change 9 credit Culture requirement to “9 credit hours with minimum of 3 Culture courses in at least two different subject areas”
- To meet the Culture competency, a student must meet **all** of the following:
 - 3 courses, with a minimum of 9 credits, with the Culture attribute
 - The 3 courses must be from at least two different disciplines
 - At least 1 of the 3 courses must be 200-level or higher
 - A maximum of 5 of the 9 credits can have the Activities attribute



Recommendation 9

- Require all general education courses to include at least one co-curricular event relevant to the course for students to attend and reflect on as part of the course requirement
- Not implemented. However, efforts are underway to encourage inclusion of co-curricular events as appropriate.

 Recommendation 10

- **Adopt course criteria that describe what must be true of courses that meet the GE FLOs**
- Each of the core competencies has the following:
 - Hallmark of a Bulldog
 - Operational definition
 - Relevance statement
 - Four Ferris Learning Outcomes

 Recommendation 11

- **Allow any Ferris State University course that meets the course criteria for a general education FLO to have general education status for that FLO. An approval process will be required for all courses requesting general education status**
- Implemented. The certification process will be discussed today in UCB 217 at 2:30 pm

 Recommendation 12

- **Hire a full-time Coordinator of General Education**
- 2014 to 2016 – Clifton Franklund appointed as General Education Coordinator with 0.75 release
- 2017 to 2020 – Clifton Franklund reappointed as General Education Coordinator with 0.50 release

 **Recommendation 13**

- **Retain the existing general education committee structure but add a representative from Student Affairs, from Retention and Student Success, and from the Student Academic Affairs Council (ex officio, nonvoting) to the University General Education Committee; modify the outcome area subcommittees to equalize membership between the College of Arts and Sciences and other colleges; and add a subcommittee for Quantitative Literacy**
- Implemented with a few modifications

 **Recommendation 14**

- *Retain the existing general education policies/procedures with minor change, and add policies/procedures for the periodic re-certification of GE courses, for curricular mapping of the Ferris Learning Outcomes, and for GE Program assessment*
- Implemented all except curricular mapping of FLOs

 **Conclusions**

- The General Education Taskforce made 14 recommendations for implementation
- Two recommendations were not implemented in the current plan
- Several recommendations were modified to simplify implementation
- Details of the revised plan will be shared this afternoon and throughout the semester


