

GENERAL EDUCATION

Committee Presentation to WOU Faculty Senate

January 24, 2017

Agenda

1. Our Charges
2. What We Have Done
3. What We Need

Gen Ed Committee Charges

1. Provide *oversight of Western Oregon University's general education program, which includes working with faculty, staff, and students to ensure that WOU offers a comprehensive, accessible, and dynamic general education curriculum that is aligned with institutional learning outcomes.*
2. Manage information, processes, and requirements for proposing courses for D, LACC, Q, and W designations; conduct regular review of criteria and update application materials, as needed.
3. Review curriculum proposals for D, LACC, Q, and W designations according to the established criteria.
4. Maintain a resource bank for D, LACC, Q, and W course design, based on voluntary submissions from faculty and work with the Center on Academic Innovation to provide resources that support general education instruction.
5. Provide assistance and consult with the Registrar on matters pertaining to general education curriculum and transfer articulation.
6. Coordinate committee functions with relevant campus stakeholders (e.g., Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, Academic Requirements Committee, etc.).

As a program, General Education should have:

- Mission
- Program-level learning outcomes
- Well-defined and accessible pathways for students

What We Have Done

Completed:

Q Designation

Conducted faculty discussions about the purpose of general education.

In progress:

Mission Statement

Learning outcomes

Diversity Rubric

What We Need

Continued engagement from Divisions, Faculty Senate, Other Groups

A pause on new applications

What We Need

Time to:

Complete our drafts

Turn feedback into working documents

Compare curriculum to mission and
outcomes

Thank You

Supplemental material (for reference and further discussion)

Members

Daniel Tankersley (Creative Arts, Chair)

Christopher Brooks (Computer Science)

Breeann Flesch (Natural Science & Math)

Camila Gabaldon (Library)

Kara Gouranis (Deaf Studies & Professional Studies)

Rachel Harrington (Teacher Education)

Shaun Huston (Social Science)

Wendy Krislen-Adams (Business & Economics)

Margaret Manoogian (Behavioral Sciences)

Frank Nevius (Humanities)

Janet Roberts (Health & Exercise Science)

FACULTY GOALS FOR GEN ED

- Intellectual foundations
- Breadth of exposure
- Citizenship
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Opportunities for multidisciplinary learning

MISSION (Draft)

General education at WOU is dynamic, accessible, and comprehensive. The curriculum provides students with an introduction to habits and practices fundamental to learning across academic fields. Students engage ideas and skills from a variety of areas, and enjoy opportunities to communicate, apply and integrate that knowledge. The general education program is a resource that empowers students to pursue diverse interests, take on different roles, and contribute as citizens of a complex world.

COLLABORATION

- Provide oversight of Western Oregon University's general education program, which includes working with faculty, staff, and students to ensure that WOU offers a comprehensive, accessible, and dynamic general education curriculum that is aligned with institutional learning outcomes.
- Coordinate committee functions with relevant campus stakeholders (e.g., Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, Academic Requirements Committee, etc.).
- Maintain a resource bank for D, LACC, Q, and W course design, based on voluntary submissions from faculty and work with the Center on Academic Innovation to provide resources that support general education instruction.
- Provide assistance and consult with the Registrar on matters pertaining to general education curriculum and transfer articulation.

MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

- Faculty
- Staff
- Students
- Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Academic Requirements Committee
- Center for Academic Innovation
- Registrar
- "etc."
- Assessment Facilitation Steering Committee
- Provost (?)

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT

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- Review curriculum proposals for D, LACC, Q, and W designations according to the established criteria.

CURRICULUM MGMT ACTIONS

- W, Q, and D designations can be closely matched to specific ULOs:
 - Written Communication
 - Quantitative Literacy
 - Intercultural Knowledge & Competency/Global Learning
- Courses that fulfill these Gen Ed requirements should assess these ULOs.
- Application materials are being revised to reflect this.

CURRICULUM MGMT CHALLENGES

- There are no established criteria to determine whether a course should be part of the LACC, and there apparently never have been.
- Creating coherent criteria for LACC courses should benefit WOU, but could threaten enrollment in specific courses or programs.

CURRICULUM MGMT CHALLENGES

- The LACC in its current form often functions to influence enrollment in specific courses and programs.
- We need robust and creative solutions to ensure the breadth of academic offerings at WOU.