



The essence of education is not to transfer knowledge; it is to guide the learning process, to put responsibility for study in the students own hands...[and] place people on their own path of discovery and invention.

Tsuneshaburo Makiguchi

GENERAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (GEPLC) UPDATES

Dr. Leanne Merrill has been elected the Chair of the 2020-21 GEPLC. Dr. Merrill has prior experience on assessment Professional Learning Communities. Her instruction in First Year Seminars also provides her with valuable perspective on streamlining the submission process for work samples.

The (GEPLC) is a crucial element of the General Education assessment plan. The faculty who come together in the GEPLC play an important role in our mission. General Education provides a shared framework for nearly all WOU undergraduate students, regardless of major. We want to understand the program as a whole and to help students find meaning and purpose in their work. Since the General Education program contains shared learning outcomes for all disciplines, the GEPLC works to build a mutual understanding of how these learning outcomes are assessed in a variety of contexts. We also need to evolve to address our learning outcomes and to refine those outcomes if we discover the need. Finally, as a truly interdisciplinary program, we must come together to support innovation and collaboration and to understand this program to which we all contribute and in which all of our students are engaged.

NWCCU ACCREDITATION STANDARD 1.C.6:

Consistent with its mission, the institution establishes and assesses, across all associate and bachelor level programs or within a General Education curriculum, institutional learning outcomes and/or core competencies.

In 2019-20, the GEPLC identified General Education Learning Outcome (GELO) 1:

Foundational Skills and Breadth of Knowledge as our GELO of interest and chose to explore the alignment of First Year Seminars to GELO 1. An outcome of our work was a complete revision and overhaul of the Foundational Skills rubric. This revised rubric

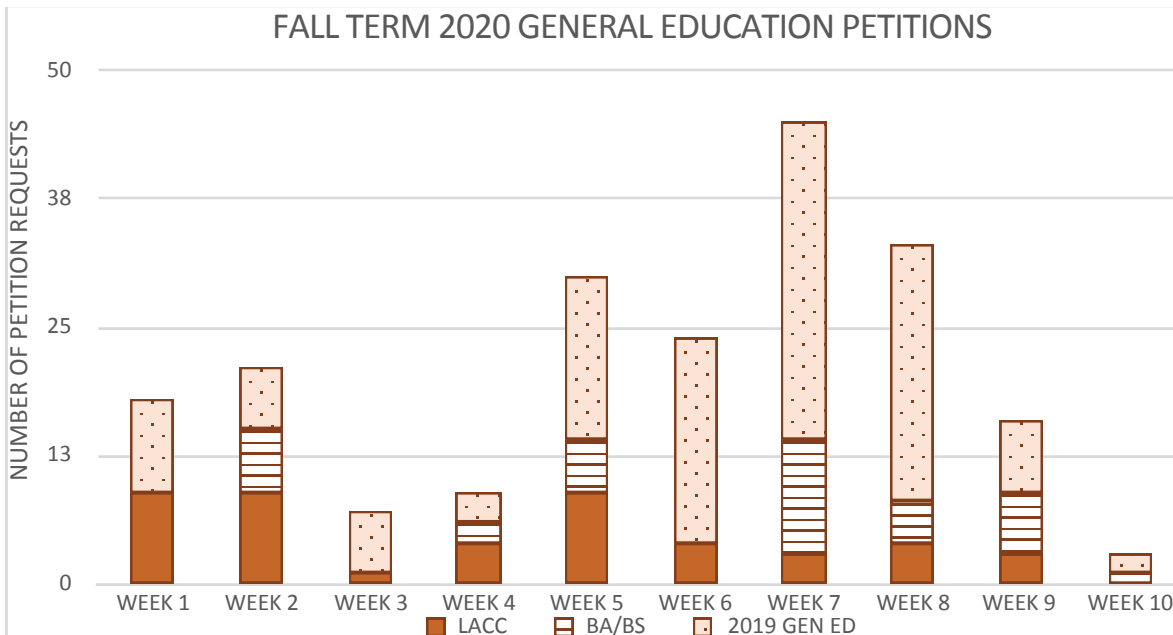
- Emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to emphasize
- Relies on backward design so that students and faculty can work toward capstone proficiency.
- Features aspirational language that identifies what students can do rather than deficiency language that identifies what students may be missing.

In 2020-21, the GEPLC will be using work samples collected last year and this year to norm and further refine this rubric and to establish our rubric targets for First Year Seminars. We also plan to use the successful revision process to craft a rubric aligned to an additional GELO.

*Intellectual
Foundations
and Breadth of
Exposure: Put
into practice
different and
varied forms of
knowledge,
inquiry, and
expression that
frame academic
and applied
learning*

GENERAL EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS: FALL TERM PETITIONS

In Fall 2020, the General Education office processed 208 petition requests for waivers, substitutions or other exceptions to General Education requirements.



This represents a decrease of about 34% from the 317 petitions processed in Spring 2020. Of these, 23 (11%) were declined. The majority of declined petitions were requests to use WOU courses not approved by the General Education Committee to meet General Education requirements. We assisted 6 students impacted by the Concordia shutdown. We processed 44 transfer courses through the Transfer Evaluation System to articulate either as existing WOU courses or as electives that meet General Education requirements.

We also worked with the registrar's office to review 4 student transcripts with 11 Joint Military Service courses for alignment to General Education requirements.

Remember you can find the General Education Petition form at www.wou.edu/gened/petitions-form.

Faculty Senate has just voted to affirm the recommendation of the General Education Committee to allow students with one course or requirement remaining in an AAOT or other approved transfer degree to complete the credential at WOU to meet their General Education requirements. Students can use the transfer degree option in the petition form to make this request.

NEW FYS 207 TOPICS ADDED FOR THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC CATALOG!

The General Education Committee recently met to review and recommend the following FYS 207 topics for inclusion in the 2021-22 roster. We are also grateful for the number of FYS 107 topic proposals we received. As noted by FYS coordinator Shaun Huston in this year's call for proposals, our emphasis this year was on building our FYS 207 roster. FYS 107 proposals have been tabled for review next Fall and will not need to be resubmitted.



• *Protecting the Living World and its Inhabitants – Bryan Dutton*



• *Fight the Power: The Case Against the Math Establishment – Matt Nabity*



• *Superheroes or Super Criminals? Examining the Criminal Culpability of Superheroes– Jennifer Moreno*



• *Notorious Trials: How Shocking Crimes Became Shocking Administration of Justice.– Jennifer Moreno*



• *Forensic Failures: Understanding bias and Logical fallacies in forensic science – Jerielle Cartales*



• *Facts and Fables in Human Evolution – Anna Hardin*



• *Occupational Health – Eric Wallace*



• *Real World Math for Creatives – Ted deChatelet*

Winter Term FYS course descriptions and details are now available at wou.edu/gened/fys

