

Oakland University

2021-2022 General Education Committee Annual Report

Chairperson – Maria Paino (CAS)

Voting Members

Stephen Bazinski (SECS)

Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo (CAS)

Addington Coppin (SBA)

Lindsay Gietzen (SHS)

Sarah Hosch (CAS)

Cheryl Jusela (SON)

Elizabeth Kattner (CAS)

Michael Long (SEHS)

Julia Rodriguez (UL)

Adina Schneeweis (CAS)

Jing Tang (SECS)

Yin Yu-Thompson (SBA)

Kasaundra Tomlin (SBA)

Non-Voting Members

Melanie Chamberlain (PAC)

Susanne Condron (Assessment Coordinator)

Jeremy Johnson (Student Congress)

Amy Hardison Tully (Interim Associate Provost)

Song Yan (Director, OIRA)

Matt Zeig (Registrar Designee)

General Education Coordinator – Linda Gamage

From May 16, 2021 through May 9, 2022, the committee reviewed and finalized:

- 83 Petitions of Exception
- 36 Course Proposals
- 37 Transfer Course Reviews
- 5 Non-Student Initiated Transfer Course Reviews

In addition, there were 42 automatic approvals of Petitions of Exception, 21 Petitions of Exception and 41 Transfer Course Reviews received and finalized without being sent to the committee for review.

Courses Approved for the 2022-23 Catalog:

- BIS 3000 – WIG
- MUS 4998 – CAP
- PSY 4983 – CAP
- HS 3500 – KA, WIG, and WIM
- MUS 3212 – WIM
- MUS 3211 – WIM
- MUS 4210 – WIM
- IS 2121 - GP
- WRT 3084 – DIV, WIG and WIM
- NTR 4500 – CAP and WIM
- COM 2702 – ART
- COM 4970 – CAP and WIM
- MUS 1018 – DIV
- CDS 2070 – GP and WIG
- PHL 1330 – WCIV
- THA 3031 – CAP
- THA 4031 – CAP
- NRS 4026 – CAP (revised proposal)
- LIT 2909 – ART

Courses Approved for the 2023-24 Catalog:

- FLM 1400 – KA
- PS 3715 – WIM
- CW 2500 – DIV and WIG
- COM 2202 – WCIV

Courses Reviewed and Denied:

- PS 3715 – SS
- COM 1650 – WCIV
- SED 3000 – WIG
- PSY 4983 – WIM
- BIS 3000 – WIG

The committee held 7 meetings.

The General Education Committee (GEC) exchanged minutes and updates with the General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC). The committees held a joint meeting on 11/22/2021 to report work completed and being done within each committee. As co-chair of the GEAC, Lori Ostergaard continued to attend the GEC meetings as the liaison between the committees.

During the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 semesters, the GEAC members reviewed assessment reports for 33 courses using the General Education Student Learning Outcomes (GESLOs), and 16 courses assessed as part of the two-year pilot study using the University Learning Outcomes (ULOs), providing evaluation and feedback for each of the assessments. The GEAC also reviewed and provided feedback for 23 assessment plans included with the course proposals submitted to the GEC.

The GEAC asked for support to realign the membership of both committees to better match the work. The following proposal was approved by Senate:

Proposal for Change in Membership to the General Education Committee

The Membership of the General Education Committee (GEC) currently includes the Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (or designee) and the General Education Assessment Coordinator as Ex-officio and Non-voting members. The primary responsibilities of these members involve monitoring departments' adherence to general education assessment obligations and advising the committee on matters pertaining to assessment of general education courses. With the creation of the General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC) in May 2020, these responsibilities have shifted from the GEC to the GEAC. The membership of the GEAC also includes the Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (or designee) and the General Education Assessment Coordinator as Ex-officio and Non-voting members. The GEC proposes a revision to the membership of the GEC to remove the Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (or designee) and the General Education Assessment Coordinator to recognize that the contributions and expertise of the Office of the Institutional Research align with the GEAC.

Furthermore, the GEC proposes a change to the Membership of the GEC to include a co-chair of the General Education Assessment Committee as an ex-officio and non-voting member of the General Education Committee. This change will formalize the regular and continuous coordination of the two committees and emphasize the importance of maintaining communication on issues affecting the General Education program curriculum and assessment of the program.

A proposal was also submitted by GEAC and approved by Senate to redefine the leadership of GEAC to include co-chairs, making one specifically responsible as liaison between GEAC and GEC.

The committees discussed the benefit of knowledge gained as a member of GEC, and that this experience and knowledge would be helpful to GEAC. The chairs will explore ways to encourage those

who have served on GEC to subsequently serve on GEAC.

GEC accompanied GEAC in their work with a department delinquent in their assessment, in order to avoid removing courses from the General Education Program. The department and GEAC have a plan in place and a timeline to address the issue.

In early 2021, Paul Battle asked the committee to consider allowing quarter-hour school courses that transfer at less than 3 credits but meet the learning outcomes of a general education requirement, to satisfy the requirement. In the past, the committee has determined that a course must be a minimum of 3 credits to satisfy a requirement. The committee finalized the discussion and approved this for students initially entering Oakland University. Students already enrolled may not satisfy general education requirements with quarter-hour courses.

Shannon Esselink and Paul Battle requested that the Knowledge Application attribute be retroactively added to JRN 2000 and PSY 2250. The committee confirmed that the course content did not change and approved this request.

The GEC continued to discuss the need to explore updating the overall program. In preparation for jumpstarting this work, in February of 2022 Maria Paino, Adina Schneeweis, Lori Ostergaard, and Joe Shively attended an HLC conference. In May of 2022, the Senate established the General Education Program Revision Ad Hoc Committee.

The committee explored changes to the GESLOS for the Art requirement so that it might be more inclusive to written artforms, but determined that a change was not necessary until a specific course proposal was submitted.

Maria Paino proposed exploring removal of the Capstone requirement from the general education requirements. Many programs now have capstone courses specific to majors. Some must meet accreditation standards. Assessment of these courses is difficult, and in many cases has shifted to the accreditation assessment, or by ULO instead of GESLO. This was discussed and explored throughout the year. Committee members consulted their units and feedback was compiled across the university, including Deans, advisers, and administrators. There was both support and concern about removing the requirement. Some programs indicated that they would continue to offer the capstone course as is, but others would discontinue it. The committee continues to explore this.

Linda Gamage is working with Steve Farver to update the Transfer Course Review Form. It will be a complete overhaul, and the new processes being built into the form will serve as a basis for updating the other forms used by the GEC.

Matt Zeig provided an update to the committee regarding the impact of the Out of State Transfer Policy that the committee approved the previous year. The policy allows courses to be evaluated similarly to the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA), which can result in students having the general education requirements waived. 47 students have benefited from the policy. Matt stated that most of these students have come from community colleges in Ohio. Ohio has a program similar to the MTA called the Ohio 36 Agreement. He proposed that Oakland University begin applying the same waiver we apply for MTA, to any student who has satisfied the Ohio 36 Agreement. Matt stated that the Ohio 36 Agreement criteria would be reviewed every year to ensure that it continues to align with the MTA. There was concern that we need to ensure students with an Oakland University degree are graduating with a

quality, Oakland University education, however, there must be a certain level of trust within the overall system of higher education. The committee voted to approve awarding MTA to any student who transfers having already completed the Ohio 36 Agreement. Matt's office will work with admissions to track the results of this, and report back to the committee in a year.

Working to update and standardize the catalog for concise and transparent content, Kristin Landis Piwowar provided a template she developed for the departments. It included a blanket statement about the general education requirements, and a listing of recommended general education courses to be taken. The committee agreed that a blanket statement regarding the general education requirements should be included, but was opposed to including specific general education courses. Instead, a link to the general education page in the catalog that provides all the courses available that satisfy the requirements is more appropriate. This will not prejudice students towards specific courses, and will remain more in line with the intent of a general education program.

The committee reviewed the 2022-23 general education catalog content provided by Mary Purcell and approved it with no content change.

The HLC requires a minimum of 30 credits in general education. Oakland University had a 40 credit minimum that was removed in the 2019-20 catalog and not replaced with a minimum number of credits, because there are still 10 requirements that cannot double count, and capstone, writing intensive, and diversity that must be met – all with a course of at least 3 credits. However, it came to the committee's attention that it would be rare, but possible for a student to satisfy all of the general education requirements without completing 30 credits with some of the waivers that are in place (Foreign Language Waiver, petition approval to waive a requirement, portfolio waiver for Writing Foundations, and quarter-hour school reduced credits). The committee was unable to gather statistics to determine if any students have yet to do this because most students who have graduated did so with the 40 credit requirement in place. The committee determined that catalog language requiring 30 credits of general education is not required at this time.

The committee determined that no transfer course reviews will be reviewed or approved for courses less than three credits. A student will continue to be able to submit a petition of exception for courses taken less than three credits.

The committee appointed Adina Schneeweis to serve as the chair for 2022-23. She will be on sabbatical for a portion of that time. She will continue to attend meetings and remain up to date on issues before the committee, but Maria Paino agreed to serve as acting chair during the sabbatical.