

Oakland University
General Education Program Revision Ad-Hoc Committee
Annual Report
2023-2024

Co-Chairs

Laila Guessous (SECS)
Maria Paino (CAS)

Voting Members

Yongjin Lu (CAS)
Lori Ostergaard (CAS)
Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo (CAS)
Elizabeth Kattner (CAS/SMTD) - WI 2024 for Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo on sabbatical
Adina Schneeweis (CAS)
John McCulloch (SBA)
Deana Hays (SON)
Amanda Lynch (SHS)
Cindy Carver (SEHS)
Patricia Bills (SEHS) - WI 2024 for Cindy Carver on sabbatical
Amanda Hess (UL)

Non-Voting Members

Zachary Barclay (PAC-FYAC)
Jason Taylor (CAS Advising)
Kurtis Kirkpatrick (SECS Advising)
Paul Battle (Registrar)
Elaine Carey (Dean, CAS)
Dawn Aubry (Vice President of Enrollment Mgmt)
Kristin Landis-Piwowar (EVPAA)
Susanne Condron (OIRADA)
Linda Gamage (GEC Coordinator)

The GEPRHHC committee was set up by the OU Senate to investigate options and propose recommendations for a revision of the General Education Program at Oakland University.

Winter 2024 Listening Tour - Input from the Community

Members of the GEPRHHC met with committees or representatives from every academic unit on campus during the winter 2024 semester to solicit feedback and recommendations for General Education. The committee was especially interested in learning each unit's views on the knowledge, dispositions, and skills that General Education needs to provide students, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the current General Education program. All of the meetings were very positive, constructive, and provided very useful insights to the committee. Below is a list of meetings that took place with representatives/committees/COIs from the various units.

1. January 16, 2024 - Meeting with CAS Chairs
2. January 17, 2024 - Meeting with the School of Nursing
3. January 19, 2024 - Meeting with the School of Business Administration
4. January 22, 2024 - Meeting with the School of Education and Human Services
5. January 22, 2024 - Meeting with the School of Engineering and Computer Science
6. January 25, 2024 - Meeting with the School of Health Sciences
7. February 2, 2024 - Meeting with the School of Music, Theater and Dance
8. February 5, 2024 - Meeting with Math, Chemistry, Biology and Art
9. February 16, 2024 - Meeting with English, Writing and Communication
10. March 4, 2024 - Meeting with the Social Sciences (Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Political Science)
11. March 8, 2024 - Meeting with the Humanities (Modern Languages, Philosophy, History, International Studies, Linguistics)

The following additional meetings took place during the Winter 2024 semester:

1. February 13, 2024 - Presentation to the Senate Steering Committee
2. February 15, 2024 - Presentation to the Oakland University Senate
3. March 8, 2024 - Meeting with the Oakland University Student Congress
4. March 29, 2024 - Meeting with the OU Deans' Council

The committee also prepared and distributed a survey on General Education to current undergraduate students at OU.

Some of the committee's efforts were reported upon in an Oakland Post [article](#) in February.

AAC&U Institute on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment (iGEPA)

A subset of the GEPRAHC members participated in the [2024 AAC&U iGEPA](#). The hybrid institute ran from January 29th until June 7th, and included multiple workshops and discussions related to General Education, assessment and pedagogy. These members also attended the [2024 Conference of General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment](#) in Providence, RI from April 10th to April 13th, where they participated in several workshops and presentations related to General Education and networked with other universities undergoing similar efforts. On the last day of the institute, the OU team presented an action plan for its General Education reform efforts moving forward and received feedback on the plan from AAC&U experts, as well as institute participants from other universities.

Committee Summer Work and Upcoming Events

Many members of the committee are continuing to work on General Education reform efforts over the summer, with the goal of analyzing the data collected during the Winter 2024 semester and developing 2-3 sample General Education models that could be presented to the OU community in the Fall for feedback and input. This feedback would then be used to identify a General Education model for OU that would be developed and further refined, with input from faculty, students, staff, and other constituents. The goal of the committee is to work through this process in a deliberative, open, and iterative manner.

Upcoming Plans

The following list of action items was developed as part of the team's work for iGEPA. Dates will be adjusted as needed based on feedback and edits that we receive from the OU community as we go through the revision process.

- A working group composed of members of the General Education Program Revision Ad-hoc committee will work over the summer to develop one or more proposals for General Education models to present to the Oakland University (OU) community and its stakeholders.
- Another sub-group will work on analyzing the data collected this semester from our focus group meetings and student surveys to identify common knowledge, skills, dispositions and competencies for all students.
- A third sub-group will analyze the data provided by the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Data Analytics (OIRADA) pertaining to our current Gen Ed program to identify the most commonly taken Gen Ed courses. This group will also examine data from student surveys and existing alumni surveys.
- The sub-groups will work the weeks of June 10 and July 8 and in August if needed.
- Identify values and goals of our Gen Ed curriculum and show different ways this could be done.
- Prepare a newsletter documenting what we have done over the past few months.

- Develop some graphics to convey what we have learned from our meetings with various units. In particular, we wish to emphasize the commonalities in the responses from various units across campus (July-September).
- Set up a website documenting the work of the committee.
- We are organizing a speaker series focused on General Education in the Fall semester. The College of Arts and Sciences Dean has contacted three potential speakers and is working on finalizing the dates (September-January). We will have our first speaker in September and our second speaker in October. We also plan on bringing in a speaker to meet directly with the GEPRHHC.
- Organize a model walk in the Fall 2024 semester for the OU community after the first talk. This model walk will present our proposals from the summer. We might also include opportunities for the community to provide feedback on learning outcomes.
- Propose rebranding of General Education by using different terminology (such as Grizz Core, Cornerstone, etc.) during the model walk.
- Meet with University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI), Provost office, Registrar's office and deans to **figure out a realistic timeline** for submission of proposal for approval. Technically, the deadline to UCUI for possible inclusion in 2026-27 catalog is **October 1, 2025**. Otherwise, it would have to wait until 2027-28 catalog. This is a major bottleneck.
- Seek additional feedback on the models and rebranding from the community and various units across campus. Refine our model and program name.
- Once we agree on a general model/framework, set up sub-committees to work out the details (write program proposal, pilot program for FYE team-taught courses, transfer issues, assessment, course proposal process, pedagogy, transitioning from old to new program, etc).
- Bring in a speaker from an institution with a similar type of model in Winter 2025 or early Fall 2025.
- Bring in assessment experts in 2025-26 to help us figure out best practices on assessment of General Education Programs.

Timeline:

- June-August, 2024: Sub-committee summer work.
- September-October, 2024: First two speakers and present models to the community.
- Work with Communications and Marketing to set up General Education Reform website.
- November, 2024-April, 2025: Third speaker. **Seek feedback** from the community and various units across campus. Refine our model and program name.
- Concurrently: November, 2024-April, 2025: Work out details for proposal (April would be our goal if we want to make 2026-27 catalog).
- Final Gen Ed plan sent to COI/assemblies by April, 2025.
- April-September, 2025: Present Gen Ed plan to various units on campus and incorporate feedback into the plan.
- September, 2025: Submit to University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) (deadline is **October 1, 2025** if aiming for 2026-27 catalog)
- October-November, 2025: UCUI review

- January-February 2026: Senate approval
- If an FYE is part of our new program, pilot FYE course in Fall 2025 or Winter 2026, then pilot a Transfer E course.
- Catalog launch for the 2026-27 academic year in March 2026

We plan on sharing information with the campus community regularly. We have already begun doing so, and will continue to remain transparent throughout the entire process:

- We have started sharing some of that information with the General Education Program Revision Ad hoc committee members by hosting video viewing sessions.
- So far, we have met with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) chairs, all campus units, the OU Student Congress, the Dean's council and the faculty senate to seek feedback and apprise them of our work. We plan on repeating this process a few times in the upcoming Fall and Winter semesters.
- An Oakland Post article about the committee's work and participation in the institute was published in Winter 2024.
- We have set up an OU email address that we can use to communicate with the campus community and to receive feedback (GEReform@oakland.edu). We can also use this account to set up a website where we can post updates on our work.
- We plan on preparing a quarterly newsletter to be disseminated to the campus community. The committee co-chairs have undergone training on the EMMA email newsletter system.
- Per what we learned in the institute, develop some graphics that we can use in all of our communications about General Education.
- We are planning a Fall 2024 speaker series focused on General Education. The first speaker will discuss various Gen Ed models.
- Organize a model walk in the Fall 2024 semester for the OU community after the first talk. This model walk will present our proposals from the summer. We will begin with how we developed the outcomes/emphases from the data. Show different models and then show examples of how these models are enacted at different institutions (without institution names to avoid biases) and how they could look at OU. We would probably use the same outcomes for each model to get the community on board with the outcomes and a single model before we work out how the model would work here.
- Continue to meet with units across campus as we develop and refine our new program.