

Oakland University
General Education Program Revision Ad-Hoc Committee (GEPRAHC)
Annual Report
2024-2025

Co-Chairs

Laila Guessous (SECS)
Maria Paino (CAS)

Voting Members

Yongjin Lu (CAS)
Lori Ostergaard (CAS)
Timothy Donahue (CAS)
Adina Schneeweis (CAS)
Brandon Gustafson (SBA)
Tracey Chan (SON)
Amanda Lynch (SHS)
Cindy Carver (SEHS)
Tony Guest (MTD)
Amanda Hess (UL)
Valerie Aljajawi (Student)

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)
Elizabeth Kattner (CAS/SMTD)
Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo (CAS)

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.

Summer/Fall 2024 - Initial Model Development

Using the feedback gathered during the 2023-2024 academic year, as well as best practices identified from the general education literature and from participation in the AAC&U Institute on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment (iGEPA), the GEPRHHC committee developed [three sample General Education model frameworks](#) and shared them with the OU community for feedback. Some [key features](#) of all three models include: a first year experience (FYE), Foundations courses, a Math for your path structure, and themes. The three models were labeled [Pathways](#), [Strands](#) and [Themes](#). To emphasize Oakland University's unique core curriculum, demonstrate the connections between this new curriculum and our undergraduate degrees, better reflect the specific—rather than general—goals of the program, and support school spirit, the committee proposed rebranding the OU general education curriculum as GRIZZ CORE.

Fall 2024/Winter 2025 - Presentations and Feedback on the Models

In order to present the model frameworks to the OU community, the committee organized **8 model walks** in the Fall semester, allowing faculty, students and staff the opportunity to view posters describing the models and to discuss them with members of the committee. An online feedback survey was accessible using QR codes or a link on the committee's website.

1. 9/19/24 - 2:00PM-3:00PM, before senate meeting
2. 9/26/24 - 12:00PM-1:15PM, Kresge library
3. 10/1/24 - 12:00PM-1:00PM, CAS chairs meeting, Oakland Center
4. 10/2/24 - 3:00PM-4:00PM, Oakland Center
5. 10/4/24 - 4:00PM-5:00PM, OU Student Congress meeting, Oakland Center
6. 10/10/24 - 10:00AM-11:15AM, Outside Varner Hall
7. 10/17/24 - 11:00AM-12:00PM, Oakland Center before Rob Townsend's talk
8. 10/24/24 - 11:30AM-1:30PM, Major/Minor Expo, Oakland Center

The committee co-chairs and some of the committee members provided updates and participated in **32 different meetings** to provide information to faculty, students and administration, collect feedback and answer questions about the models and the process. Below is a list of these

presentations and meetings. Note, this does not include informal discussions with various faculty members and administrators.

1. 9/16/24 - Update to SEHS Assembly (Cindy Carver)
2. 9/18/24 - Update to SON Assembly (Laila Guessous)
3. 9/23/24 - Update to SBA Assembly (Laila Guessous and Maria Paino)
4. 9/24/24 - Update to CAS Assembly (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous)
5. 9/27/24 - Update to SECS Assembly (Laila Guessous)
6. 9/27/24 - Update to SHS Assembly (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous)
7. 11/1/24 - Presentation to Chairs Advisory Team (Amanda Lynch)
8. 11/5/24 - Presentation to Senate Steering Committee (Maria Paino, Laila Guessous and Lori Ostergaard)
9. 11/11/24 - Presentation to SBA assembly (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous)
10. 11/12/24 - Presentation to Chairs/Provost meeting (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous)
11. 11/12/24 - Presentation about models to KL assembly (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous, Amanda Hess)
12. 11/12/24 - Meeting with Academic Sustainability Committee (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous)
13. 11/13/24 - Discussion with DEI Council (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous)
14. 11/14/24 - Presentation to SMTD assembly (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous, Liz Katner)
15. 11/15/24 - Presentation to SECS assembly (Laila Guessous)
16. 11/18/24 - Presentation to SEHS assembly (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous, Cindy Carver)
17. 11/19/24 - Presentation to CAS assembly (Maria Paino and Laila Guessous, Liz Katner and Jason Taylor)
18. 11/20/24 - Presentation to SON assembly (Laila Guessous)
19. 11/21/24 - Meeting with Department of Modern Languages (Laila Guessous)
20. 11/22/24 - Presentation to SHS assembly (Laila Guessous)
21. 12/3/24 - Meeting with Career and Life Design Center (Maria Paino)
22. 12/4/24 - Meeting with Sarah Hosch - CETL (Laila Guessous and Maria Paino)
23. 12/5/24 - Meeting with Department of Political Science (Laila Guessous and Maria Paino)
24. 12/5/24 - Meeting the the Math Department (Laila Guessous, Maria Paino and Yongjin Lu)
25. 12/9/24 - Presentation to Executive Leadership Council (Laila Guessous and Maria Paino)
26. 12/12/24 - Presentation to Senate (Laila Guessous)
27. 1/14/25 - Q&A session with Dept Chairs/Provost (Laila Guessous and Maria Paino)

28. 1/24/25 - Meeting with Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations (Maria Paino and Lori Ostergaard)
29. 1/29/25 - Meeting with Dept of biological sciences chair (Laila Guessous and Maria Paino)
30. 2/11/25 - Meeting with Kate McConnell and Jessica Chittum from the AAC&U (Laila Guessous, Maria Paino and Elaine Carey)
31. 3/14/25 - Meeting with Dept of Linguistics (Maria Paino and Yongjin Lu)
32. 4/10/25 - - Meeting with Sarah Hosch - CETL (Laila Guessous and Maria Paino)

Several e-mail newsletters were also sent to OU faculty and staff to keep them apprised of the work of the committee and of upcoming events.

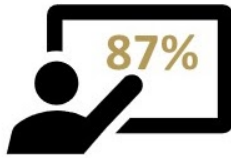
Speaker Series

The committee invited **3 expert speakers** to give presentations about General Education best practices and trends to the OU community, as well as to meet with the committee. An additional meeting for the committee only was setup with a speaker from Purdue.

1. 9/12/24 - Paul Hanstedt, **Wicked Problems in Higher Ed — And the Wicked Problem of General Education**
2. 10/17/24 - Rob Townsend, **The State of Liberal Arts and General Education**
3. 11/15/24 - Meeting with Melinda Zook, Purdue University
4. 4/9/25 - Brandi Newkirk-Turner, **Redesigning General Education Together: Faculty, Student, and Administrator Partnerships**

Summary Report of Feedback Received

To understand the campus perspective on OU's General Education program, the General Education Program Revision Ad-hoc Committee (GEPRAC) engaged in several activities beginning in Winter 2024 and continuing through Fall and Winter 2025. Outreach included a survey of students, a listening tour with all academic units, model walks presenting three options for a revised General Education (Gen Ed) program, and feedback gathering about the proposed models. The graphic below summarizes some of the feedback received from faculty, students and staff. For more detailed information, please review [the summary report](#) prepared by Susanne Condon from OIRADA, with input from various committee members.



of faculty and staff see value in reforming OU's general education program:

- 55% said the program would benefit from some changes
- 32% said the program needs a significant redesign

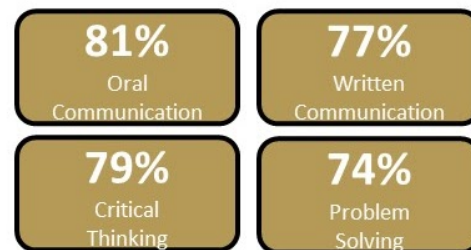
The Top 5 Goals for General Education Students Rated as Most Important



How important is it to include the following elements in the General Education program? (% Faculty & Staff responding "Extremely" or "Very" Important)

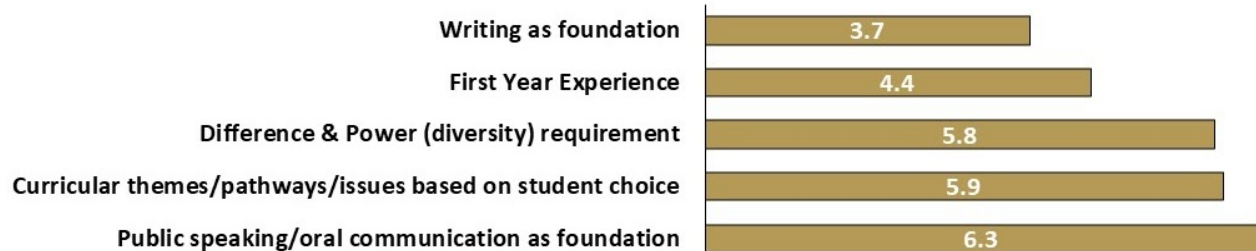


Top Skills Employers Rated as Important to Success in the Workplace



Findings from the [AAC&U's 2023 Employer Survey](#) reveal that the values of students, faculty, and employers are closely aligned.

What do Faculty & Staff consider to be the most important elements to include in a new model for General Education at OU? (Average rating from 1 = most important to 14 = least important)



Many respondents noted in the open-ended comments that elements were missing from the models, particularly Arts & Humanities, Literature, and Media & Information Literacy.

Committee Work

This is a very busy committee that is fortunate to have a strong, dedicated group of faculty, staff and a student who are passionate about general education. The committee generally met every 2 weeks for 1.5-2 hours, but sometimes met more frequently than that. Committee members often had tasks to complete in between meetings. Below is the list of committee meeting dates.

GEPRAHC - Committee Meetings

1. 8/21/24, 12:30PM - Discuss models and posters; Discussion on Diversity requirement with Jo Reger and Randall Wyatt (Hydeen Beverly, Felicita Arzu-Carmichael and Richard Olawoyin couldn't make it but are providing feedback separately)
2. 9/12/24, 8:30AM - Meeting with Paul Hanstedt, presentation, model walk prep
3. 9/16/24, 2:30PM
4. 9/30/24, 2:30PM - included demo by Lynnae Lehfeltdt in VH Recital Hall
5. 10/14/24, 2:30PM
6. 10/17/24, 8:30AM - Meeting with Rob Townsend, model walk, presentation
7. 10/28/24, 2:30PM
8. 11/15/24, 9:00AM - Zoom meeting with Melinda Zook from Purdue University
9. 12/2/24, 2:30PM
10. 1/15/25, 10:00AM
11. 1/29/25, 10:00AM
12. 2/23/25, 10:00AM
13. 3/5/25, 10:00AM
14. 3/12/25, 10:00AM
15. 3/19/25, 10:00AM
16. 3/26/25, 10:00AM
17. 4/9/25, 8:30AM - Meeting with Brandi Newkirk-Turner from Jackson State University
18. 4/16/25, 10:00AM
19. 4/30/25, 10:00AM

GEPRAHC Summer Work

Summer 2024

The following committee members worked during the week of 6/10/24 and/or the week of 7/8/24 to analyze the feedback data that was collected in Winter 2024 and develop three sample General Education Models.

- Maria Paino, CAS

- Laila Guessous, SECS
- Amanda Lynch, SHS
- Adolfo Campoy Cubillo, CAS
- Adina Schneeweis, CAS
- Tim Donahue, CAS
- Tony Guest, SMTD
- Elizabeth Kattner, SMTD
- Amanda Hess, Library
- Yongjin Lu, CAS
- Cindy Carver, SEHS
- Susanne Condron, OIRADA
- Jason Taylor , First Year Advising
- Kurtis Kirkpatrick, Advising
- Linda Gamage, Gen Ed Committee
- Paul Battle, Registrar

Summer 2025

Several committee members are working the weeks of 5/12/25 and 7/7/25 to revise the GE models down to two models based on the additional feedback gathered during the 2024-25 academic year. The revised model proposals will be presented to the OU community in Fall 2025.

- Maria Paino, CAS
- Laila Guessous, SECS
- Amanda Lynch, SHS
- Adolfo Campoy Cubillo, CAS
- Adina Schneeweis, CAS
- Tim Donahue, CAS
- Tony Guest, SMTD
- Elizabeth Kattner, SMTD
- Amanda Hess, UL
- Cindy Carver, SEHS
- Susanne Condron, OIRADA
- Jason Taylor , First Year Advising
- Kurtis Kirkpatrick, Advising
- Linda Gamage, Gen Ed Committee
- Paul Battle, Registrar

Other conferences, workshops, and institutes that committee members have attended or presented at:

Several members of the committee conducted a 75 minute workshop at the 2025 AAC&U Conference on Learning and Student Success (CLASS):

Maria Paino, Laila Guessous, Lori Ostergaard, Susanne Condron, Yongjin Lu, Timothy Donahue "Breaking Down Barriers to Program Revision Success: A Philosophy of Engaged Listening, Curricular Flexibility, and Radical Transparency", 2025 AAC&U Conference on Learning and Student Success (CLASS), April 2, 2025

Future Work

Below is a brief timeline of expected activities:

- **Summer 2025** - GEPRHHC will develop a second round of revised models based on the feedback received.
- **Fall 2025** - Solicit feedback on the second set of proposals and work on securing the resources and administrative structure needed for a new general education program.
- **Fall 2025 and Winter 2026** - Develop a final proposal that builds upon all of the feedback received.
- **Winter 2026 through Fall 2026** - Submit new General Education program proposal for final approval through appropriate governance.
- **Fall 2027** - Launch new OU general education program.