

Oakland University
General Education Committee
Annual Report
2023-2024

Co-Chairs

Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo (CAS) (Fall 2023)

Julia Rodriguez (UL) (Winter 2024)

Adina Schneeweis (CAS)

Voting Members

Stephen Bazinski (SECS)

Lauren Childs (SEHS)

Addington Coppin (SBA)

Mary Craig (CAS-SS)

Debatosh Debnath (SECS)

Derek Hastings (CAS-HUM) (Fall 2023)

Elizabeth Kattner (CAS) (Winter 2024)

Yan Ling (SBA)

Stephanie Mabry (SHS) (Fall 2023, Summer 2024)

Jessica Payette (CAS-HUM) (Winter 2024)

Brittany Williams (SHS) (Winter 2024)

Non-Voting Members

Zachary Barclay (PAC- FYAC) (Fall 2023)

Jade Dang (PAC-FYAC) (Winter 2024)

Mohammad Salman (Student Congress)

Kristin Landis-Piwowar (Associate Provost)

Kevin Laam (Co-Chair from GEAC-CAS)

Mario Scibilia (Registrar Designee)

General Education Coordinator – Linda Gamage

From May 2, 2023 through April 29, 2024, the committee reviewed and finalized:

- 142 Petitions of Exception
- 33 Course Proposals
- 71 Transfer Course Reviews
- 19 Non-Student Initiated Transfer Course Reviews

In addition, there were 21 automatic approvals of Petitions of Exception, 17 Petitions of Exception, and 29 Transfer Course Reviews received and finalized without being sent to the committee for review.

In the fall of 2024, DES 4999 was replaced by DES 4430 as the Capstone course for Graphic Design majors. As a result, the advisers identified 36 students who need an exception to allow DES 4430 to satisfy the requirement because they completed the course prior to fall 2024. The committee chairs reviewed the syllabi for all of the sections of DES 4430 for these students and approved a bulk petition.

Courses Approved for the 2024-25 Catalog:

- PS 3030 - WCIV
- WGS 3660 - DIV
- DES 2230 - WIM
- PHL 3630 - WIM, WIG, KA
- PHL 3520 - WIM, WIG, KA
- PHL 3600 - WIM, WIG, KA
- DES 4430 - CAP
- PHL 3820 - WIM, WIG, KA
- PHL 3800 - WIM, WIG, KA
- PHL 3700 - WIM, WIG, KA
- HS 2000 (NSTL) and HS 2050 (NSTB) - NSTN
- QMM 2400 - FR
- REL 3735 - WCIV or GP

Courses Approved for the 2025-26 Catalog:

- AN 3110 - KA
- DES 1130 - ART
- DAN 1378 - ART and DIV

Course Proposals Withdrawn:

- QMM 2410 - FR
- LIT 1200 - LIT
- SPN 1500 - ART

Committee Functioning

- The General Education Committee (GEC) held 12 meetings.

- The committee exchanged minutes and updates with the General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC). The committees held a joint meeting on 12/7/2023 to exchange information about the work being done by each committee. As co-chair of the GEAC and liaison to GEC, Kevin Laam attended GEC meetings.
- The GEC Handbook, housed on espace, was updated with current processes and helpful links. The chairs and coordinator worked with CETL to also update the Faculty Handbook.
- The GEC created a background document with general information to be used while reviewing Petitions of Exception and Transfer Course Reviews.
- [Adina Schneeweis](#) and [Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo](#) attended the October PAC meeting to consult on the decision making processes affecting both units.
- The chairs of GEC and GEAC determined that the exchange of information between the committees could be simplified. A shared drive housing the meeting minutes of each committee is now available to all committee members. The committee charges were updated so that the chairs will meet each semester, with full meetings only as necessary. The change to the charge was approved by the GEC and presented at the Senate meeting for vote on 4/18/2024:
 1. To recommend to the Senate policies and requirements for undergraduate general education;
 2. To function as a curriculum committee for a the university-wide program of General Education;
 3. To respond to petitions of exception relating to that program in accordance with Senate authorizations;
 4. To liaise with the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction and provide an annual report summarizing the work of the committee; and
 5. To advise and coordinate with the General Education Assessment Committee to establish priorities for each academic year and exchange minutes. The co-chairs shall meet at least once each semester with the co-chairs of the General Education Committee.
- The GEC appointed Stephanie Mabry (Fall 2023) and Elizabeth Kattner (Winter 2024) as liaison with UCUI.
- The GEC unanimously voted to approve Derek Hastings as co-chair for the next two academic years. Adina Schneeweis will continue her term as co-chair for 2024-2025.

Committee Communication

- The GEC worked with University Communications and Marketing to update the webpage for General Education to provide:
 - appropriate messaging for the target audience - students and prospective students
 - information consistent with the catalog
 - University Learning Outcomes

- a link to a new General Education Employee Resource Network page, to house the information and forms for faculty and staff
- the Writing Intensive criteria
- The GEC updated the General Education section in the catalog in order to be more concise and consistent with the updated web page, providing the essential policy information. The template for department pages in the catalog was changed to be consistent with the updated structure of the website and catalog. This was approved and submitted:

General Education requirements

In order to graduate on-schedule without taking additional courses, it is highly recommended that students meet with an Undergraduate Academic Adviser concerning the selection of all of their general education courses.

Each candidate for an Oakland University baccalaureate will need to satisfactorily complete approved courses in each of the following areas: Foundations, Explorations, and Integration. For details, refer to the [General Education Requirements](#) section of the catalog.

- Espace was updated and re-organized for ease of use.

Areas of Emphasis This Year

- Last winter, the GEC approved updated verbiage so that the waiver for the Writing Intensive in General Education requirement could be applied more broadly. Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo presented this updated verbiage to UCUI in the fall. They determined the verbiage required additional clarification. The Office of the Registrar and the GEC subsequently determined that no changes to the overall waiver were necessary. The waiver will remain as is.
- The GEC explored ways to update the Knowledge Applications requirement verbiage to be more consistent with its intent. Because of the way that majors and courses have evolved, and become more interdisciplinary over the years, the committee determined that any changes to the existing requirement could disadvantage some students. The requirement will remain as it is, with an understanding that there should be a holistic approach when considering KA petitions. This issue should be resolved with reform.
- The GEC received updates from, and provided information to the General Education Program Revision Ad Hoc Committee throughout the year.

Policy and Practice Changes

- The GEC updated the Language and Culture requirement waiver policy for international students to include testing accepted during the admissions process. The updated policy was presented to Senate as an informational item and received no objections, and was added to the 2024-25 catalog:

For international undergraduate students whose native language is not English, the Language and Culture requirement may be waived when the student record includes one of the following:

- A TOEFL, MELAB, IELTS or Duolingo English Test score that satisfies the admissions criteria
 - ESL courses from another regionally accredited institution
 - A transcript indicating graduation from a high school instructed in a language other than English
- The GEC received a request to review AP Literature and Composition (accepted for credit with a minimum test score of 4) to determine if it satisfies the learning outcomes for the Literature requirement. The committee approved this, and it has been applied to student records for those who meet the criteria. The Office of the Registrar's website reflects the change. The chairs met with the English and Writing and Rhetoric Departments to provide information and request review of the AP Literature and Composition and AP Language and Composition equivalencies and acceptable scores. The departments support the committee's decision to award the Literature attribute, and maintain their decisions for existing scores and equivalencies.
- At the request of Christopher Mocny and PAC, the GEC submitted the Petition of Exception and Course Proposal forms to pull in the preferred name where appropriate. The GEC anticipates that the modifications will be tested and installed over summer 2024.
- The Senate Disability Awareness and Literacy Committee requested consideration of adding "disability" to the U.S. Diversity learning outcomes. The General Education Committee approved updating the learning outcomes as follows:
 - Knowledge of how diverse value systems and societal structures are influenced by at least two of the following: race, gender, ethnicity, or disability
 - Major challenges and issues these raise in society

This was presented to Senate Steering, and will be added to a Senate meeting agenda for consideration in the fall.

- The Art and Art History Department removed DES 4999 as the Capstone course for the Graphic Design program, and the committee approved DES 4430 to satisfy the Capstone requirement starting with the 2024-25 catalog. As a result, there were approximately 35 students who required approval to use DES 4430 taken prior to fall of 2024 to satisfy their Capstone requirement. The chairs reviewed the appropriate syllabi for those students and approved the request. The student records were updated accordingly.