

**Annual Report
2007-2008**

**General Education Committee
Oakland University**

**Submitted by
Andrea Eis, Chair, Fall 2007
Debatosh Debnath, Chair, Winter 2008
September 2008**

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Oakland University**

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Membership

Faculty:

Andrea Eis, Chair Fall 2007 (Art and Art History)
Debatosh Debnath, Chair Winter 2008 (Computer Science and Engineering)
Cathleen Breidenbach (Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism)
William Connellan (Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism)
Youngjoo Kim (Teacher Development and Educational Studies) (Winter 2008)
Ray Liedka (Sociology and Anthropology)
Shawn Lombardo (Library)
Deb McGinnis (Psychology) (Winter 2008)
Marilyn Mouradjian (Nursing) (Fall 2007)
Kathleen Pfeiffer (English) (Fall 2007)
Anandi Sahu (Economics)

Ex-officio:

Susan Awbrey (Senior Associate Provost)
Donna Malaski (Professional Advisers' Council representative)
Jennifer Gilroy (Registrar liaison)
Laura Schartman (Assessment Committee liaison)
Dave Tindall (Professional Advisers' Council) (Only through Sept. 10, 2007)

Student Representative:

Mark Medaugh

Meetings

The General Education Committee (GEC) met six times in Fall 2007, eight times in Winter 2008 and one time in Summer 2008. The committee also corresponded via email to conduct its business during Summer 2008.

Petitions of Exception for General Education Requirements

FALL: The GEC reviewed 38 Petitions of Exception for general education requirements. Of these, 33 were approved and 5 were denied. Further breakdown by petition type is given below.

Basis for Approved Petitions of Exception

Adviser error: 4
Catalog/SAIL error: 2
1 credit of Gen Ed waived: 4
One-time circumstances/substitute coursework: 13
Upper-level coursework completed: 2
AP credit: 1
OU course given later GE approval: 4

Basis for Denied Petitions of Exception

Course not acceptable: 4
Less than 31 Gen Ed credits: 1

WINTER: The GEC reviewed 47 Petitions of Exception for general education requirements. Of these, 35 were approved and 12 were denied. Further breakdown by petition type is given below.

Basis for Approved Petitions of Exception

Adviser error: 6
Catalog/SAIL error: 1
1 credit of Gen Ed waived: 7
One-time circumstances/substitute coursework: 15
Upper-level coursework completed: 2
Other (misc): 4

Basis for Denied Petitions of Exception

Course not acceptable: 11
Less than 31 Gen Ed credits: 1

Transfer Course Reviews for General Education Requirements

FALL: The Committee reviewed 26 Transfer Course Review requests against both old and new general education requirements. Of these, 18 were approved and 8 were denied.

WINTER: The Committee reviewed 55 Transfer Course Review requests against both old and new general education requirements. Of these, 35 were approved and 12 were denied.

Transfer Course Reviews: Colleges and Universities

FALL: The Committee reviewed 26 courses from other colleges and universities for transfer to OU as fulfilling general education requirements. Of these, 18 were approved and 6 were denied. Five courses were deferred until more information could be obtained (such as whether a course fulfills the lab requirements for NST).

WINTER: The Committee reviewed 16 courses from other colleges and universities for transfer to OU as fulfilling general education requirements. Of these, 13 were approved and 3 were denied.

New General Education Course Approvals

FALL: The Committee approved an additional 41 courses for the General Education Program. Of these, 36 courses were approved to meet requirements (20 were already approved WIM courses approved as WIGE); and 5 courses were deferred with requests to the departments for more information or revision. (Note that some courses were approved for more than one area.) Those approved fall into the areas below:

Capstone:	2
WIM:	5
WIGE:	24
KA:	2
GP:	3
WC:	1
Diversity:	1

WINTER: The Committee approved an additional 13 courses for the General Education Program (Note that three courses were approved for two areas.) Those approved fall into the areas below:

Capstone:	8
WIM:	5
KA:	3

General Education Assessment Plans and Reviews

FALL: The Committee did not review any new Assessment Plans, and did not review any Assessment Reports.

WINTER: According to the assessment schedule developed by the GEC few years ago, assessment reports for the courses in Arts, Formal Reasoning, and Social Science areas were scheduled for review in 2007-08 academic year. Following courses are listed under these areas in the 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog.

AH 100, AH 101, AH 104
AN 101, AN 102, AN 300
CIN 150
COM 287
CSE/CIT 120, CSE/CIT 130, CIT 122
DAN 173, DAN 175
ECN 150, ECN 200, ECN 210
HS 202
LIN 180, LIN 183, LIN 184
MTH 118, MTH 121, MTH 122, MTH 154
MUS 100, MUS 131, MUS 200, MUS 236, MUS 334, MUS 336, MUS 338
PHL 102, PHL 107
PS 100, PS 114, PS 131, PS 203
PSY 100, PSY 130
SA 100
SOC 100, SOC 206
STA 225, STA 226
THA 100, THA 301, THA 302
WS 200

By the middle of August 2008 the Committee reviewed 23 assessment reports. Nine additional assessment reports were received in August 2008 which will be reviewed in 2008-2009 academic year. Six assessment reports are pending. Assessment of other courses were postponed.

Issues Considered by the General Education Committee:

1. Writing Intensive in General Education: In the fall, the GEC discussed, developed and implemented strategies for increasing the number of WIGE courses.
2. In winter, the GEC unanimously recommended that students should be allowed to take both of the intensive writing courses either in general education or in their major. The issue was presented as an informational item to the Senate.
3. FAQ sheet for the Professional Advisers Council was revised.
4. During the fall, implementation issues with the new GE program were discussed, but recommendations to Senate were not formally approved, due to committee workload on other issues. The issues discussed were:
 - a. An alternative format for Knowledge Applications courses (such as simplification to “one higher level course that has a Knowledge Foundations course as a prerequisite”)
 - b. Revision of the Capstone Learning Outcomes
 - c. Institution of a General Education minimum grade requirement
 - d. Incorporation of General Education assessment into UAC assessment process
 - e. Revision of General Education assessment timing
5. Revised General Education Charge went to Senate Steering Committee just prior to the start of the 2007 fall semester (developed during the summer of 2007, but not included in 2006-2007 report. Revised charge has not yet been brought to the full senate.
6. The appeal process for the GEC's denial of a petition is unclear. The current policy on appeal of academic issues leads to a student's College/School Dean. However, the GEC makes academic decisions on petitions, which may be denied. Since these decisions are made outside the student's College/School – because the GEC is a University Committee – a student wishing to appeal a denial by the GEC does not formally have an appeal process. An appeal policy that will provide a formal line of appeal which incorporates decisions of the GEC should be developed in 2008-2009 academic year. This issue was discussed near the end of 2007-2008 academic year.