

**Oakland University
General Education Committee
Annual Report
2022-2023**

Co-Chairs

Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo (CAS)
Adina Schneeweis (CAS)

Voting Members

Stephen Bazinski (SECS)
Addington Coppin (SBA)
Debatosh Debnath (SECS)
Cheryl Jusela (SON)
Elizabeth Kattner (CAS)
Yan Ling (SBA)
Stephanie Mabry (SHS)
Julia Rodriguez (UL)
Bill Solomonson (SEHS)
Yin Yu-Thompson (SBA)
Kasaundra Tomlin (SBA)
Holly Yatros (CAS)

Non-Voting Members

Zachary Barclay (PAC- FYAC)
Maris Ferguson (Student Congress)
Kristin Landis-Piwowar (Interim Associate Provost)
Amanda Nichols-Hess (Co-Chair from GEAC-UL)
Song Yan (Director, OIRA)
Mario Scibilia (Registrar Designee)
General Education Coordinator – Linda Gamage

From May 9, 2022 through May 2, 2023, the committee reviewed and finalized:

- 108 Petitions of Exception
- 19 Course Proposals
- 64 Transfer Course Reviews
- 12 Non-Student Initiated Transfer Course Reviews

In addition, there were 26 automatic approvals of Petitions of Exception, 26 Petitions of Exception and 39 Transfer Course Reviews received and finalized without being sent to the committee for review.

Courses Approved for the 2023-24 Catalog:

- LIN 4375 – DIV
- CW 2000 – KA and WIG
- PHL 3500 – KA, WIG and WIM
- SPN 1200 – LIT
- PHL 3000 – KA
- ML 1400 – WCIV
- SPN 1300 – GP
- DAN 3380 – ART and WIG
- HRD 3530 – WIM
- PSY – 4982 - CAP

Course Approved for the 2024-25 Catalog:

- REL 3735 WCIV or GP

Courses Reviewed and Denied:

- LIN 4375 – LG
- ML 3800 – GP, DIV, WIG
- SPN 1300 – ART

The committee held 9 meetings.

The General Education Committee (GEC) exchanged minutes and updates with the General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC). The committees held a joint meeting on 12/7/2022 to report work completed and being done within each committee. As co-chair of the GEAC, Amanda Nichols-Hess continued to attend the GEC meetings as the liaison between the committees.

The GEC reviewed the Seal of Biliteracy to determine if it should be used to satisfy the Language and Culture requirement. The committee found that the criteria for awarding the seal can vary. When it is awarded based on AP or IB test score, that score will have waived the requirement. If an AP or IB test has not been used, the committee will request a standardized test score via Petition of Exception, such as the Avant Stamp 4S test or the AAPPL exam. An intermediate score should be sufficient for approval. As practice, the committee will also request a similar test score to accompany POEs for students without a high school diploma from an institution taught in a language other than English.

The committee considered POEs for the Knowledge Applications (KA) requirement and found that, with the evolution of curriculum, the intent of KA is not necessarily reflected in the policy in the catalog which currently states: Knowledge Applications courses must be outside the rubric of the student's major.

The intent of the requirement is stated in the General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

- evaluate and apply knowledge in a field outside of your major to solve real-world problems across a range of applications
- personal, professional, ethical and societal implications of these applications

This language "outside the rubric of the student's major" can be interpreted in a way that allows courses that are part of a student's major program plan to satisfy KA.

The committee explored updating the language, and decided to wait until UCUI finalizes some standard definitions that may be utilized.

Mario Scibilia, Assistant Registrar, Curriculum and Degreeworks, presented to the committee, demonstrating the way that general education blocks appear in Degreeworks. Each unit, for each major, can stipulate specific courses to satisfy a requirement. This can guide a student to a course that may "double count" for the major and a general education requirement, but does not make it transparent to the student, all courses that could be taken to satisfy the requirement. There is no standard policy, history, or review for which courses can be specified. The committee may consider developing a best practice for representing general education courses to students in Degreeworks.

The committee formed a subcommittee to review catalog copy and webpage content. The intent will be to maintain policy in the catalog, moving marketing content to the webpage. The webpage can link to the catalog for policy information, minimizing discrepancies.

Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo presented GEC updates at the Senate meeting on 12/17/2022. There was substantial discussion about the need to move forward with reform of the General Education Program.

The committee appointed committee member Elizabeth Kattner as a liaison to UCUI; a change to have a liaison position between the two committees was approved by both GEC and UCUI.

The policy for students seeking a second bachelor's degree did not waive general education requirements for those with international degrees. Paul Battle confirmed that students transferring international credits and degrees require a NACES evaluation, which indicates when a degree is equivalent to a US Bachelor's Degree for the student's record. The committee discussed that most of these students have covered general education either during a fifth year of high school, or during their university experience, and approved an update to the policy to include waiving the requirements for students who have an international degree. The change was approved by Senate at their meeting on 4/13/2023, and added to the 2023-24 catalog. The policy, under Academic Policies and Procedures in the catalog, now states:

For students already holding a baccalaureate degree

Students already holding a baccalaureate who wish to earn an additional baccalaureate from Oakland University must:

1. Receive written approval from the college or school concerned (and, where appropriate, from the department) as part of the admission process to the new program.
2. Complete at least 32 additional credits at Oakland University.
3. Meet all specific requirements for the new degree as stipulated by the academic unit in which the student is a candidate.
4. Second-degree students are exempt from Oakland University's general education requirements.

The committee agreed to automatically approve POEs consistent with this policy update, until the policy is in the catalog.

John Meldrum, Associate Director of Operations and Finance, Undergraduate Education, asked the committee to consider waiving the Writing Intensive in General Education (WIG) for Early/Middle College students to match our policy for transfer students. These students are essentially transfer students, but because they are coded differently, they do not receive the waiver. The committee agreed that the general policy to waive WIG for transfer students requires examination, perhaps best suited for the revision committee. The committee determined that this request, about the definition of the population to which the policy applies, would be considered. To apply the policy more equitably, the committee approved the language that Shane Lewis, Paul Battle, and Renee Ligeski presented the committee:

General education requirements for students with transfer credits

Students with transfer credit may fulfill the General Education Requirements with transfer courses that have been approved by Oakland University. A three semester-hour transfer course may serve as the required course in a particular Foundation, Exploration, or Integration area. All Foundation, Exploration, and Integration areas must be represented at the time of graduation except in the following instances:

- Students earning the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA), MACRAO Transfer Agreement, or the Out of State Transfer Policy (OSTP) are exempt from the Writing Intensive in General Education requirement.
- Transfer students are exempt from the Writing Intensive in General Education requirement.
- First Time in Any College (FTIAC) students, including Early/Middle College, are exempt from the Writing Intensive in General Education requirement if they have earned an Associate's degree or have accumulated a minimum of 56 transfer credits.

All students with transfer coursework must complete the Writing Intensive in the Major course and the Capstone course at Oakland University.

Transfer students in the College of Arts and Sciences should also refer to the Notes under the College exploratory requirement for additional guidelines on transfer course restriction.

This policy update still requires approval by UCUI and Senate before it can be added to the catalog.

Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo and Adina Schneeweis attended the General Education Pedagogy and Assessment Conference in New Orleans. Linda Gamage attended some information sessions virtually. Best practices, and information about program revision were the focus of sessions attended.

The committee reviewed and approved the AP African American Studies course to satisfy the U.S. Diversity requirement.

The committee determined the need for adding a co-chair to disperse the workload, liaison with other committees and attend meetings, including GEAC, UCUI and Senate, and to stagger the departure of leadership. Along with this change to the structure, the committee included adding non-voting membership of the General Education Coordinator. The changes were approved during the Senate meeting on 3/16/2023. Adina Schneeweis and Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo will continue as the co-chairs for 2023-2024.