

General Education Requirements (GER) Implementation Recommendations

Motion: EPAG moves that the Faculty endorse the following set of recommendations to support implementation and continuing development of the new and revised graduation requirements.

I. Course Approval

1. For requirements either new to the General Education Curriculum or significantly revised—Multiculturalism [M], Internationalism [I], Quantitative Thinking [QT], Writing [W]—we propose that four separate *General Education Subcommittees* be established.
2. Similar to the subcommittee structure currently in place (e.g. IDIM, Study Away), each proposed subcommittee will be comprised of four members. One representative from EPAG will be joined by two faculty members and one staff member appointed by the Provost in consultation with EPAG. The staff person will be responsible for coordinating the administrative duties associated with the approval process. Faculty members will be asked to accept Subcommittee assignments for two-year terms with the option to continue beyond the second year.
3. The duties of each General Education Subcommittee will be to:
 - a. Review course proposals and recommend courses for approval to EPAG;
 - b. Assist EPAG in responding to issues raised by transfer students, student requests for retroactive approval or approval for courses taken during study abroad/study away, etc.
 - c. Assist with the design and implementation of professional development opportunities in consultation with the CST and other relevant College programs, offices, and individuals; and
 - d. Assist in evaluating whether the goals of the requirement are being fulfilled on an institutional basis in consultation with relevant College programs, offices, and individuals.
4. The course approval process shall be consistent across all Subcommittees.
5. Each Subcommittee will evaluate and recommend sections of courses for approval on a semester basis.
6. Requests for approval should be made no later than October 15th for courses offered in spring semester and no later than March 15th for courses offered in fall semester. The course approval form will require descriptive information about the proposed course and a brief statement of how the course fulfills the course approval criteria.
7. Approved courses will be granted continuing approval unless there is significant change in the course content or structure that will necessitate resubmission to the appropriate Subcommittee for re-evaluation.

8. To strengthen academic advising and support student planning and access to courses, prior to the registration period each semester the Registrar shall post a list of all courses that fulfill M, I, QT, and W requirements to be offered the following term.

II. Faculty Participation

1. To encourage widespread and sustained faculty participation, we propose that courses fulfilling general education requirements be acknowledged as important curricular contributions through yearly addenda and personnel processes.
2. To support shared responsibility and equal opportunity for faculty to participate, we propose that Department Chairs work with the Provost to anticipate and address workload equity issues that arise on an individual and a department basis.
3. To support continuing curricular renewal, collaboration, and innovation with respect to the general education requirements, we propose that faculty be encouraged to participate in varied professional development opportunities responsive to their specific interests and evolving experience and expertise. Included might be:
 - a. access to faculty with significant academic preparation and teaching experience who would be available to work with faculty colleagues at their request, on a one-on-one basis, to support course development and implementation;
 - b. focused presentations or discussion sessions regarding challenges specific to teaching approved courses;
 - c. brief intensive course development workshops (3-4 half days), offered in January or late May;
 - d. semester long reading/reflection/mutual support seminars for faculty engaged in teaching courses approved courses and those considering participation; and
 - e. support to attend relevant regional/national/international conferences or workshops
4. Participation in professional development activities should be compensated with release time, FTR, or stipends as appropriate; and acknowledged as an important contribution via yearly addenda and personnel processes.

III. Sunset Clause

EPAG recommends that *the graduation requirements be evaluated after a trial period of five years* (Fall 2011) at which time each requirement may: 1) continue as approved for implementation beginning Fall 2007; 2) be revised based on feedback from the first four years; or 3) be eliminated as a graduation requirement. We further recommend that the General Education Subcommittee structure be re-evaluated concurrently.