



The General Education Committee (GEC) is proposing several revisions to the General Education Program.

1. On January 28, the University Academic Senate approved our proposal to:

- a. Move WRT 150 into the GE Foundations.
- b. Incorporate the MTH 110 proficiency as a prerequisite to all courses in the Mathematical Sciences Foundation category.
- c. Eliminate the Jr. Level writing requirement for all students effective late August 2011.

This proposal will eliminate Basic Skills as a designation. The requirement to fulfill the MTH 110 proficiency and WRT 150 will remain the same.

2. On February 1, the GEC distributed, for discussion, another proposal to:

- a. Add teamwork, problem solving, and civic responsibility as new goals in the GE program and incorporate ethical reasoning (now a knowledge goal) as a skills goal in the program.
- b. Distribute these goals throughout the GE program and redistribute the current goals (written and oral communication, critical and creative thinking, information literacy, and integration). Based on our Fall 2010 survey of all units offering GE courses, we developed this preliminary distribution plan:

GE Category:	F/W	F/LS	F/PS	F/MS	F/A	F/HP	F/PL	F/SBS	C/US	C/WP	UD	TOT	
Writing	1		1			1	1					4	
Speaking									1	1		2	
Crit/Crea. Thinking	1			1		1				1		4	
Info Literacy	1	1						1	1			4	
Integration											1	1	2
Ethical Reasoning		1					1					2	
Teamwork			1						1		1	1	4
Problem Solving				1	1						1	1	4
Civic Responsibility					1			1	1			3	
Total per Category:	3	2	3										

Note: F/W refers to "Foundations: Writing," F/LS refers to "Foundations: Life Sciences," etc. UD refers to "Upper Division."

- c. Eliminate the Themes categories and incorporate a new upper-division requirement called Global Issues:
 - The ultimate aims will be to develop students' ability to *integrate* disciplinary perspectives, *collaborate* with people from a range of academic backgrounds, and begin to *solve problems* of great importance to the world.
 - Most courses will continue to be located in a discipline/department. Each course will have content that connects to a global issue—that is, to see how the course content contributes to the human conversation about the global issue.
 - In the process of posing and addressing a problem, faculty will guide students from multiple majors to connect their coursework to learning in other fields. Students and faculty will reflect on how various disciplines can and do contribute to the same conversation.

- The students will work in integrative teams to begin the work of “solving” the problems presented by the course content and the overarching global issue.
- The proposal also includes a structure by which we can begin offering upper-level GE courses with an explicitly interdisciplinary aim. These courses would also fit within Global Issues categories.

We are proposing 7 Global Issues categories:

1. Health and Human Development
2. Sustainability
3. Globalization
4. Citizenship
5. Identity and Culture
6. Religion
7. Communication and Media

These are “global” in the sense that they are big issues with global impact. Courses within these categories need not have a global focus, but they must demonstrate a *connection* to a global issue.

Other details:

- All courses will teach and assess integration, teamwork, and problem solving about a global issue.
- It is a two-course requirement (down from three).
- Students will be able to take courses from two different Global Issues (unlike the current Themes).
- Students must choose courses from two different disciplines.
- All courses will be 300/400 level.

Timeline:

- We’re anticipating starting the new requirements—both Global Issues and courses teaching the new goals—in Fall 2013.
- We’re developing a transition plan for current students.

Curriculum Process:

- GE and FTLC will develop faculty development programs to ensure faculty are able to teach and assess the new goals in their courses.
- Courses that are currently in the GE Foundations and Cultures will complete a new Course Assessment Plan (CAP) showing how they will meet the new skill and content goals if they want to remain in those categories after 2013 (they will not need to go through the on-line curriculum process).
- Courses that would like to be included in a Global Issues category will need to complete a new course or course change proposal, the General Education form in the on-line curriculum process, and a CAP. We are developing a streamlined process for this to happen.

Discussion and Feedback:

- We will have four campus forums to discuss this proposal before a final proposal is ready for faculty governance. These are scheduled for 2/22, 2/24, 2/28, and 3/2.
- We are scheduling discussion meetings with individual units and colleges.
- For more information and to give feedback, visit the GE website (www.gvsu.edu/gened).