

Q: Where will my course fit?

A: The Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee will work with faculty focus groups to establish specific course criteria and learning outcomes for each of the 12 course categories. No courses will be grandfathered in. Drafts of some course category descriptions are provided in the narrative.

Q: Is it too late to provide feedback?

A: No! Constructive feedback is welcome.

Q: Why is this program being proposed?

A: The Higher Learning Commission's review has given us an opportunity to develop a stronger program. An increased focus on critical skills, taught through our existing excellence in content, will help prepare our students for successful careers. Our students will benefit from a more structured, integrated and cohesive program.

Q: This is a significant change, how can it be accomplished?

A: Faculty, staff, and administrators are working together in the Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee. The committee will reach out to other faculty, staff, and administrators as needed.

Q: What is the target implementation date?

A: A two-year preparation period is anticipated, with implementation in fall 2019.

Q: What about the special challenges faced by students in high credit-hour curricula and by transfer and contemporary students?

A: In response to feedback, the committee has already seated focus groups to address these specific issues.

Q: How will faculty be involved in shaping the curriculum?

A: Faculty focus groups will help develop learning outcomes and rubrics for the course categories identified in the model. Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) rubrics may be adapted for use at WMU.

Q: If rubrics are used, how will faculty individuality be maintained?

A: Common rubrics will be used for the course's learning outcomes that specifically pertain to the skills taught in the general education program. Faculty choose how to teach to those learning outcomes. For aspects of the course that do not pertain to the general education skill set, faculty will use their own evaluation approaches.

Q: What can faculty start doing now?

A: In departments and as individuals: consult the General Education Revision Design Report and consider where existing courses would be a logical fit, what courses may be adapted to meet outcomes, or where you might like to propose new courses.
NOTE: the two Connections courses are open to all disciplines. This course category provides opportunities for "big question" classes.

Q: How will the program be assessed as a whole?

A: The Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee is considering various structures that would not be too onerous. Assessment would be carried out on a department level. One possible model would involve assessing the critical skill set at two or three key points in the program on a four-year cycle.

Q: How will the new program impact our relationship with community colleges?

A: The administration is communicating with community colleges in order to facilitate the updating of transfer protocols. As the Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee coordinates this work, it will consider whether online and summer courses would be helpful for transfer and contemporary students.

Q: Is team-teaching feasible at WMU?

A: Team-teaching has been successfully done at WMU in the past. The Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee may recommend that administrative structures and guidelines for team-teaching be further developed.

Q: What resources will be available to support faculty development?

A: The Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee will make a resource recommendation to the provost's office to support faculty adapting existing courses or proposing new courses (for example, Faculty Development workshops on evaluating writing).

Q: How will the new program be presented to students?

A: Professional staff will develop marketing materials to explain and promote the educational value of the program. Materials may include a required pre-enrollment online module. Admissions, orientation, and advising staff will receive appropriate information and coaching.