

WMU Essential Studies Program Fall 2019 Update

Mission: The WMU Essential Studies program provides Western Michigan University undergraduate students an integrated curriculum designed around a University-wide set of Essential Studies Learning Outcomes which enhance the quality of the undergraduate experience.

Vision: Using a learner-centered approach, the WMU Essential Studies program enables students to succeed in an ever-changing world by expanding their understanding of human cultures and the physical/natural world, enhancing their intellectual and practical skills, and exercising personal and social responsibility through integrative and applied learning.

Goal: To launch the WMU Essential Studies Curriculum in Fall 2020.

Objectives

- Complete course review and approval process for the initial curriculum
- Pilot assessment data recording in Elearning during Fall 2019 (small pilot) and Spring 2020 (larger pilot)
- Finalize student and faculty procedures for WMU Essential Studies

What We Need Your Influence To Help With

- First look at curriculum; please distribute and ask faculty to review for errors (names, numbers, categories and student learning outcomes being assessed).
- Chairs and Directors need to complete curriculum mapping. If courses are needed for a specific major from another department, contact that department
- Consider these *specific requests*
 - a. Changing second Student Learning Outcome (SLO) choice for Levels 2 and 3 course to the Planetary Sustainability outcome, course originators will be best people to enable this, more courses are needed to cover this SLO.
 - b. Changing categories or submitting new courses:
 - o Capstone courses at Level 3
 - o Course capacity at Level 3 is recommended at (25-30); however, this is very flexible, if a course was not submitted as Level 3 because of the capacity advisory, please reconsider.
 - o World Languages and Cultures category needs more courses, if a culture course was submitted to Societies and Cultures rather than World Languages and Cultures consider a category change.
 - o Consider more online sections
 - o Quick change process available for courses already approved (email for details)

Please remind faculty about these aspects of their courses in levels 1 and 3

Level 1 courses should engage students in real-world issues, whenever possible

Level 3 courses should integrate multiple perspectives within the course

Timeline

11 Oct - WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee Retreat

21 Oct - WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee Meeting

31 Oct - Deadline for Catalog

TBD - Navigating WMU Essential Studies Professional Development Series (Fall 2019 and Spring 2020)

Spring 2020 - Opportunity to Pilot Courses in WMU Essential Studies Procedures

Fall 2020 - Student/Parent focused website launch

FAQs

Q: When will the final WMU Essential Studies Curriculum be available? **A: November 2019**

Q: Can I still submit new courses? **A: Yes, but they may not be approved for Fall 2020**

Q: What if my program needs a course offered by another department? **A: Contact that department and ask**