

Northwestern Oklahoma State University

General Education Review 2014-2015

General Education Committee

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Dr. Chris Gordon (joined committee fall 2015)

Dr. Kyle Larson (joined committee fall 2015)

Ms. Cindy Foresman (joined committee fall 2015)

Ms. Natalie Sacket (joined committee fall 2015)

Introduction

The General Education committee convened on September 8, 2014. Dr. Steve Lohmann, Vice President for Academic Affairs presented the committee with a charge to review the mission and competencies of the general education program and address curriculum changes needed to align with any modifications made to the mission and competencies.

Phase 1: Mission

Committee members began with the general education review process in the fall of 2014. The first phase was to review the mission. Committee members consulted faculty members in each department and participated in a month-long discussion online to improve the mission statement, ensuring it aligned with the university's mission. The committee and faculty approved the following mission statement:

The undergraduate general education program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides a foundation for diverse learners in all academic programs. The general education curriculum fosters student development in literacy, critical thinking, and ethical leadership that lead to productive careers and citizenship.

Phase 2: Competencies/Student Learning Outcomes

Due to the national trend to move to Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), rather than competencies, the committee recommended the use of SLOs. Again, a month-long discussion was held online with committee members consulting departments and faculty members to develop SLOs that would align with the university and general education mission statements. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education general education requirements, along with the American Association of Colleges and Universities Essential Learning Outcomes were used to help guide the development of SLOs. The faculty and committee approved the following SLOs:

Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of study in the general education curriculum at Northwestern, students will achieve the following learning outcomes in literacy, critical thinking, and ethical leadership.

Literacy. Students will

- 1. solve problems using appropriate mathematical skills.*
- 2. demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.*
- 3. display skill in effective personal financial planning and money management.*
- 4. explain principles of mental and physical wellness.*
- 5. solve problems or explain principles in nature through scientific relationships*
- 6. explain the scope and value of human diversity.*
- 7. articulate how the arts lead to enhancing the human experience.*

Critical Thinking. Students will

- 1. demonstrate effective inquiry, reasoning, and analysis related to important problems and issues.*
- 2. gather, analyze, and communicate information effectively.*
- 3. solve problems using well-informed decision-making processes.*
- 4. develop new ideas and cognitive relationships.*

Ethical Leadership. *Students will*

1. *demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility and engagement.*
2. *apply principles of ethical reasoning and decision making.*
3. *collaborate with others in achievement of defined goals.*

Phase 3: Curriculum Changes

Once SLOs were developed, the spring of 2015 was spent modifying the curriculum. Each department was asked to submit courses that would be used to assess SLOs. The committee juxtaposed the courses submitted with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education requirements and developed a list of courses to meet NWSU's general education requirements, reducing required hours from 54 to 45. Then, the committee requested input from department chairs and faculty members for additional changes and acquired approval for the following (See Appendix A for catalog section):

- I. **RANGER CONNECTION1 hour**
(All beginning freshman are required to enroll in freshman orientation; waived for students with 24 or more transfer hours.)
- II. **COMMUNICATION AND SYMBOLS..... 12 hours**
Required courses:
 - i. ENGL 1113
 - ii. ENGL 1213
 - iii. SCOM 1113
 - iv. MATH 1403 or 1513
- III. **SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS 12 hours**
Required courses:
 - i. FIN 1113
 - ii. HIST 1483 or 1493
 - iii. LEAD 1013, 2023, or GBUS 2033
 - iv. POLS 1113
- IV. **NATURAL SCIENCE 11-12 hours**
One course from each of the following areas:
 - i. BIOL 1114, 1124, or 1224
 - ii. CHEM 1105, 1115, PHSC 1044, 1014, 1314, 3114, or PHYS 1114
 - iii. HED 2303
- V. **HUMAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE 3-4 hours**
Choose one course from the following list:
 - i. PSYC 1113
 - ii. HIST 1233, 1213, 1223, 1483, 1493
SOC 1113, 2123,
CJ 1113, GEOG 1113, or ART 2013
 - iii. Foreign Language or SCOM 1014
- VI. **VALUES AND BELIEFS.....6 hours**
Any course with an HUM or REL prefix (*At least three hours must come from an HUM or equivalent course*)

Although the committee realizes many courses will address multiple SLOs, the following matrix was developed to identify SLOs to be measured by specific general education courses.

	COMMUNICATION AND SYMBOLS				SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS				NATURAL SCIENCE				HUMAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE				VALUES/BELIEFS		
	ENGL 1113	ENGL 1213	SCOM 1113	MATH 1403 OR 1513	FIN 1113	HIST 1483 OR 1493	LEAD 1013, 2023 OR gbus 2033	POLS 1113	BIOL 1114, 1124, OR 1224	CHEM 1105, 1115; PHSC 1044, 1014, 1314, 3114; OR PHYS 1114	HED 2303	PSYCH 1113	HIST 1233, 1213, 1223	ART 2013	SOC 1113, 2123	CJ 1113	GEOG 1113	Foreign Lang. or SCOM 1014	Any HUM or REL course
Literacy. Students will																			
1.solve problems using appropriate mathematical skills.				X															
2.demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.	X	X	X																
3.display skill in effective personal financial planning and money management.					X														
4.explain principles of mental and physical wellness.											X								
5.solve problems or explain principles in nature through scientific relationships								X	X										
6.explain the scope and value of human diversity.												X					X	X	X
7.articulate how the arts lead to enhancing the human experience.													X						X
Critical Thinking. Students will																			
1.demonstrate effective inquiry, reasoning, and analysis related to important problems and issues.								X	X		X								
2.gather, analyze, and communicate information effectively.			X																
3.solve problems using well-informed decision-making processes.				X															
Ethical Leadership. Students will																			
1.demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility and engagement.					X		X								X				
2.apply principles of ethical reasoning and decision making.						X													
3.collaborate with others in achievement of defined goals.						X							X						

Phase 4: Assessment

NWOSU uses standardized tests for mid-level assessment for its general education program, student engagement data, and course-embedded measures. The committee recommended to continue with these assessment strategies. As such, each department will provide the designated course-embedded assessment for the specific course offered, which addresses the identified SLO. The following schedule was recommended for assessment, beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year:

Year 1 – Course-embedded assessments from Literacy SLOs, ETS, and NSSE.

Year 2 – Course-embedded assessments from Critical Thinking SLOs, ETS, and NSSE.

Year 3 – Course-embedded assessments from Ethical Leadership SLOs, ETS, and NSSE.

Recommendations

1. Change the minimum required hours for a degree from 124-120 with the proposed reduction of general education hours from 54 to 45.
2. Utilize ALCA to compile assessment data.
3. Continue allowing academic departments to propose new courses that will address general education SLOs.

Conclusion

After seeking approval of all phases from each department and the faculty of NWOSU, the committee submitted their proposed changes to the Academic Affairs committee on September 22, 2015.

Appendix A: Proposed General Education Catalog Pages

GENERAL EDUCATION

Mission Statement

The undergraduate general education program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides a foundation for diverse learners in all academic programs. The general education curriculum fosters student development in literacy, critical thinking, and ethical leadership that lead to productive careers and citizenship.

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The General Education requirements at Northwestern are required of all students for graduation. Some degree programs require specific general education courses. Students should consult the department sections in this catalog for specific courses in General Education required for majors.

- I. **RANGER CONNECTION..... 1 hour**
(All beginning freshman are required to enroll in freshman orientation; waived for students with 24 or more transfer hours.)
- II. **COMMUNICATION AND SYMBOLS..... 12 hours**
Required courses:
 - i. ENGL 1113
 - ii. ENGL 1213
 - iii. SCOM 1113
 - iv. MATH 1403 or 1513
- III. **SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS..... 12 hours**
Required courses:
 - i. FIN 1113
 - ii. HIST 1483 or 1493
 - iii. LEAD 1013, 2023, or GBUS 2033
 - iv. POLS 1113
- IV. **NATURAL SCIENCE.....11-12 hours**
One course from each of the following areas:
 - i. BIOL 1114, 1124, or 1224
 - ii. CHEM 1105, 1115, PHSC 1044, 1014, 1314, 3114, or PHYS 1114
 - iii. HED 2303
- V. **HUMAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE3-4 hours**
Choose one course from the following list:
 - i. PSYC 1113
 - ii. HIST 1233, 1213, 1223, 1483, 1493
SOC 1113, 2123,
CJ 1113, GEOG 1113, or ART 2013
 - iii. Foreign Language or SCOM 1014
- VI. **VALUES AND BELIEFS.....6 hours**
Any course with an HUM or REL prefix (*At least three hours must come from an HUM or equivalent course*)

Northwestern Oklahoma State University requires all students to meet the computer proficiency and English proficiency requirements. Students should consult the department sections in this catalog for specific courses in General Education required for majors.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTS AND SCIENCES DEGREES

A student transferring to Northwestern with an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science degree from an Oklahoma accredited institution will be considered as having completed the general education requirements of the baccalaureate degree. Exceptions to this policy are degree programs that require specific general education courses. Students enrolling in these programs must complete all required program specific general education courses. In addition, six hours of credit in American history and government will be required of each bachelor's degree candidate.

In any major or minor, at least one-half of the work must be courses of upper division (3000 - 4000) level.

Some general education course requirements may be met via CLEP, DSST, APP, and other advanced standing tests.

Any substitution of alternative general education courses must be approved by the appropriate school dean and the Executive Vice President.

Any course substitution in a major or minor course area must be approved by the major or minor area department/division chair, the school dean and the Executive Vice President.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE IN EDUCATION (With Certificate)

GENERAL EDUCATION. 45 semester hours are to be completed during the freshman and sophomore years insofar as possible for preparation of teacher certification exams. Education majors are required to take a foreign language and introductory psychology. Some education majors need additional general education coursework to meet 4x12 requirements (See Section VII).

MAJORS. In the Education curriculum, one major is required in addition to the professional teacher education requirements.

ELECTIVE CREDIT

In addition to the courses taken in general education and major curricula, sufficient, non-prescribed elective credit should be earned to complete the minimum total of 120 hours required for graduation.

ASSESSMENT FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

General education courses will be assessed to ensure Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are being achieved. Many courses address multiple SLOs, but the following matrix identifies the outcomes that require assessment from each course.

	COMMUNICATION AND ARTS/CL			SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES			NATURAL SCIENCES			HUMANITIES AND CULTURE			PALEONTOLOGY				
	COMM 1113	COMM 1213	COMM 1313	MAPE 1003 OR 1013	PH 1113	PH 1403 OR 1493	PH 2103, 200, 209, 210, 201	PH 2113	PH 2124, 1224, 0121, 220	CHM 1103, 1113, PHC 2004, 2014, 1114, 1116, 0110, 1114	PH 2003	PH 2113, 1213, 1223	PH 2013	PH 1113, 2013	PH 2113	PH 2113, 2013, 2014	
Mathematics, Students will																	
1. solve problems using appropriate mathematical skills.			X														
2. demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.	X	X	X														
3. display skill in effective personal financial planning and money management.				X													
4. explain principles of mental and physical wellness.										X							
5. solve problems or explain principles in nature through scientific relationships.								X	X								
6. explain the scope and value of human diversity.												X		X	X	X	
7. articulate how the arts lead to enhancing the human experience.												X					X
Critical Thinking, Students will																	
1. demonstrate effective inquiry, reasoning, and analysis related to important problems and issues.							X	X	X								
2. gather, analyze, and communicate information effectively.			X														
3. solve problems using well-informed decision-making processes.			X														
Civic and Ethical, Students will																	
1. demonstrate knowledge of their responsibility and engagement.				X		X								X			
2. apply principles of ethical reasoning and decision making.					X												
3. collaborate with others in achievement of defined goals.					X							X					

Appendix B: Previous General Education Catalog Pages

GENERAL EDUCATION

Mission Statement

The general education program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides a foundation for all degree programs and offers opportunities for students to develop competencies in critical thinking, leadership, and literacy.

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The General Education requirements at Northwestern are required of all students for graduation. Some degree programs require specific general education courses. **Students should consult the department sections in this catalog for specific courses in General Education required for majors.**

- I. **RANGER CONNECTION**..... 1 hour
(All beginning freshman are required to enroll in freshman orientation; waived for students with 24 or more transfer hours.)
- II. **COMMUNICATION AND SYMBOLS**.....12 hours
Required (12 hrs)
 - i. ENGL 1113
 - ii. ENGL 1213
 - iii. SCOM 1113
 - iv. MATH 1403 or 1513
- III. **SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS**.....12 hours
Required (12 hours)
 - i. FIN 1113
 - ii. HIST 1483 or 1493
 - iii. LEAD 1013, 2003 or 2023 or GBUS 2033
 - iv. POLS 1113
- IV. **NATURAL SCIENCE**.....11-12 hours
 - a. BIOL 1114 or BIOL 1124 or BIOL 1224
 - b. 4-5 hours from any physical science, any physics or any chemistry
 - c. HED 2303
- V. **HUMAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE** 7 hours
 - a. *Required—4 hrs foreign language or SCOM 1014
 - b. Electives—3 hours
 - i. Any 2000 Lit course
 - ii. Any Humanities course (except HUM 2633-Philosophy or HUM 2643-Ethics)
 - iii. HIST 1213, 1223, 1233
 - iv. ART 2013
- VI. **VALUES AND BELIEFS**.....3 hours
3 hours from HUM (2633-Philosophy or 2643-Ethics), REL or SOC
- VII. **ELECTIVES**9
(9 hours from any 3 of the 5 areas listed below)
Total hours required.....54

SECTION VII ELECTIVES may be chosen from the following categories, depending on program requirements. This list is only for Section VII electives.

Communication and Symbols

CMSC	1103	Microcomputer Applications
ENGL	2543	English Literature to 1800
ENGL	2653	English Literature Since 1800
ENGL	2773	American Literature to Whitman
ENGL	2883	American Literature Since Whitman
ENGL	4173	English Usage
GBUS	1013	Introduction to Business
HUM	2413	Introduction to Literature
MATH	1313	Statistics
MATH	2233	Structural Concepts in Arithmetic
MATH	3203	Structural Concepts in Mathematics
MATH	3223	Geometry for Elementary Teachers
MCOM	2023	Media History
MCOM	2123	Mass Communication
MCOM	3213	Oral Comm. for Business Professionals OR
SCOM	3213	Oral Comm. for Business Professionals
SCOM	3613	Small Group Communication

Social, Political and Economic Systems

ECON	2103	Survey of Economics
ECON	2113	Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON	2123	Principles of Microeconomics
GBUS	2903	Legal Environment of Business
GEOG	1113	Fundamentals of Geography
HIST	1213	Early World Civilization
HIST	1223	Modern World Civilization
HIST	1233	Non-Western Civilizations
HIST	1483	U.S. History to 1877
HIST	1493	U.S. History Since 1877
MCOM	2123	Mass Communication
PSYC	1113	General Psychology
PSYC	1213	Marriage and Family
PSYC	2113	Psychology of Adjustment
SOC	1113	Introductory Sociology

Natural Science

BIOL	1114	General Biology
BIOL	1124	General Botany
BIOL	1224	General Zoology
CHEM	1105	Chemistry for Non-Majors
CHEM	1115	General Chemistry I
HED	1820	Nutrition (for pre-nursing majors only)
PHSC	1044	Physical Science by Inquiry
PHSC	1114	General Physical Science
PHYS	1114	General Physics I

Human Heritage and Culture

ART	2013	Art History Survey
GEOG	1113	Fundamentals of Geography
HIST	1213	Early World Civilization
HIST	1223	Modern World Civilization
HIST	1233	Non-Western Civilizations
HIST	1483	U.S. History to 1877
HIST	1493	U.S. History Since 1877
HUM	2013	World Music OR
MUSI	2013	World Music
HUM	2113	General Humanities I
HUM	2223	General Humanities II
HUM	2403	Theatre Appreciation OR

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+Denotes liberal arts – science course
SL-service learning course

TCOM	2413	Theatre Appreciation
HUM	2413	Introduction to Literature
HUM	2423	Introduction to Film
HUM	2432	Art in Life
HUM	2533	Music in Life
HUM	2633	Philosophy in Life
MCOM	2023	Media History
REL	2413	Comparative Religions (World)
SCOM	1014	American Sign Language
SOC	1113	Intro to Sociology
SPAN	1114	Elementary Spanish I
SPAN	1224	Elementary Spanish II
SPAN	2183	Conversation/Reading I

Values and Beliefs

GBUS	2033	Leadership in Business
HUM	2113	General Humanities I
HUM	2223	General Humanities II
HUM	2423	Introduction to Film
HUM	2633	Philosophy in Life
HUM	2643	Ethics in Life
HIST	1213	Early World Civilization
HIST	1223	Modern World Civilization
HIST	1233	Non-Western Civilizations
HIST	1483	U.S. History to 1877
HIST	1493	U.S. History Since 1877
LEAD	1013	Habitudes: Dev. Leadership & Character
LEAD	2003	Introduction to Leadership
LEAD	2023	Psychology of Leadership
REL	2413	Comparative Religions (World)
SOC	1113	Introductory Sociology
SOC	2123	Sociological Problems and Issues

Northwestern Oklahoma State University expects all students to develop global awareness by studying a foreign language. All students must meet this requirement in one of the following ways:

- Completion of four hours of foreign language or SCOM 1014: American Sign Language with a passing grade;
- A score of 50 or above on the CLEP exam in Spanish, French, or German;
- Or, a rating of "High Novice" or better on the LTI (Language Testing International) speaking proficiency assessment.

In addition, every student must meet the computer proficiency and English proficiency requirements. Students should consult the department sections in this catalog for specific courses in General Education required for majors.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTS AND SCIENCES DEGREES (Non-Teaching)

Note: Transfer students with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from an accredited Oklahoma institution are exempt from general education requirements (except one course of American History and one course of American Government are required).

Some general education course requirements may be met via CLEP, DSST, APP, and other advanced standing tests.

Any substitution of alternative general education courses must be approved by the appropriate school dean and the Executive Vice President.

Any course substitution in a major or minor course area must be approved by the major or minor area department/division chair, the school dean and the Executive Vice President.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE IN EDUCATION (With Certificate)

GENERAL EDUCATION. 54 semester hours to be completed during the freshman and sophomore years insofar as possible.

MAJORS. In the Education curriculum, one major is required in addition to the professional teacher education requirements.

In any major at least one-half of the work must be courses of upper division (3000 - 4000) level.

ELECTIVE CREDIT. In addition to the courses taken in general education and major curricula, sufficient elective credit should be earned to complete the minimum total of 124 hours required for graduation.

Note: A student transferring to Northwestern with an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science degree from an Oklahoma accredited institution will be considered as having completed the general education requirements of the baccalaureate degree. Exceptions to this policy are degree programs that require specific general education courses. Students enrolling in these programs must complete all required program specific general education courses. In addition, six hours of credit in American history and government will be required of each bachelor's degree candidate.