
USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Committee: General Education: Reports USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Committee: General Education

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General Education End of Year Report : 2007-08

General Education Committee

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Summary of Actions, Works in Progress and Concerns since the April 2008 report to the Senate:

2008/9

Actions taken by the committee:

1. In Summer 2008 approved the first unique to USFSP General Education Courses: EUH 2000 and EUH 2001.
2. Elected to retain the current education structure and not mirror Tampa's "Foundations of knowledge structure."
3. Approved the General Education Outcomes.
4. Developed an articulation agreement with USF to "cross-walk" USFSP General Education and USF Foundation of Knowledge courses between the two systems. Held meetings with Tampa to ensure that this will be implemented across the university system by Fall 2009.
5. We revised the General Education Philosophy Statement specific to USFSP.
6. Did a review of all Upper Level General Education courses and researched the rationale behind the substantial percentage (25%) of upper level general education courses (see Document I below). As part of this review we eliminated two courses from General Education:
ARH 3475C Contemporary Issues in Art History; and LIT 3155 Modern Literature.
6. Accepted resignations of Lisa Starks and Kathy Carvalho. Jay Sokolovsky joined the committee and was elected chair.
7. Set up a time table and structure of review for general education courses and data produced each year.
8. Implemented the first campus wide General Education Task Force Dialogue with 68 faculty on Feb 13, 2009.
9. Completed the report on the Gen Ed Task Force meeting.
10. Voted to approve proposal in the task force group (fine arts/history) is that we modify the use of ARH 3001 – Introduction to Art. The task force proposes that this course count only toward Fine Arts. In the past it has counted toward Fine Arts and History. Changes would not be implemented until the 2010/2011 catalog.
11. Voted to implement a systematic schedule of review of general education courses as indicated in a. and b. below. This cycle of review will provide information for retention/deletion of courses as well as provide data for culling the number of general education areas.
 - a. Within a five year period the General Education Committee will reduce the General Education course offerings to between 50 and 60 courses and will reduce the General Education areas to five (including exit courses).
 - b. The General Education curriculum will be evaluated on a three year cycle. One third of the areas will be assessed each year with all areas undergoing assessment within three years. Recommendations for changes will be based on outcomes assessment.
12. Had a joint meeting of the Gen Ed and IEC Committees to: (1) assess progress over the past year and map out coordination of the work of both committees; (2). to review and comment on additional work that needs to be done to the Monitoring Report and changes that need to be made.

Work in Progress

Have begun an analysis of 3000/4000 level general education courses to ensure their effectiveness in the general education program

We have created a target of reducing the number of general education courses to around 60 and the number of General Education areas to 5, including exit courses.

Seeking new committee members to represent English and Literature and the Government/History side of General Education.

Concerns:

1. We need a point of contact with the senate for posting the minutes on the web.
2. We need at least two-three other members especially representing English/Humanities and the Sciences.

Documents:

Document I

10/2/2008 Draft
General Education Committee
Review of Upper Level
General Education Courses
A Report to the Institutional Effectiveness Committee

The USFSP IE Committee has reviewed all general education courses offered at USFSP over the last three years. The committee found that twenty-one out of eighty-three courses were offered at the upper level. The General Education Committee has researched the rationale behind the substantial percentage (25%) of upper level general education courses and provides the following as an overview of the variables that have affected the evolution of this extensive offering of upper level general education courses:

- Prior to August 2008, all general education courses were created by USF Tampa faculty and approved for use in general education by the USF General Education Council. This approval was established in Tampa for the whole USF system (Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, and Lakeland).
- All upper level general education courses offered at USFSP, with the exception of one, were designated as upper level courses by the Florida Department of Education, State Common Course Numbering System.
- USFSP was exclusively an upper division campus until the fall of 1998. Logically, upper level courses taught at USFSP prior to 1998 and approved for general education were integrated into the campus general education course offerings during this transition.
- USF current general education requirements were first implemented in the 1995/1996 school year. Outside pressure to ensure conformance to 120 semester hour degrees encouraged some departments to duplicate the use of upper level courses toward the major and toward general education.

We provide below a detailed sort of the applications of these twenty-one courses with General Education Committee recommendations:

Category One: Upper level general education courses that also apply toward a major offered at USFSP.

1. AFA 4150 – Africa & the United States (applicable toward ISS restricted elective)
2. ANT 3101 – Archaeology (applicable toward Anthropology)
3. ANT 3610 – Anthropological Linguistics (applicable toward Anthropology)
4. CCJ 3024 – Survey of the Criminal Justice System (applicable toward Criminology)
5. DEP 3103 – Child Psychology (applicable toward ISS cognate area)
6. MMC 3602 – Mass Communications and Society (applicable toward Mass Communications – Journalism and Media Studies)
7. PHI 3640 – Environmental Ethics (applicable toward Environmental Science)
8. PSY 3204 – Psychological Statistics (applicable toward Psychology)
9. REL 3363 – Introduction to Islam (applicable toward ISS restricted elective)
10. SOW 3210 – The American Social Welfare System (applicable toward Social Work – hosted program)

11. WST 3015 – Introduction to Women’s studies (applicable toward ISS cognate area or restricted elective)

The General Education Committee will determine if any of the outcomes for the ALC’s for the majors would overlap the outcomes for the appropriate general education area. If the overlap is determined, a system will be provided to faculty teaching these courses to provide for dual reporting. If overlap is not determined, faculty will need to report separately on general education outcomes and ALC outcomes.

Category Two: Upper level general education courses that do not count toward majors offered at USFSP.

1. AML 3413 – Historical Perspectives in Early American Literature (does not meet any specific major requirement)
2. ARH 3001 – Introduction to Art (does not meet any specific major requirement)
3. CLT 3370 – Classical Mythology (applicable toward Tampa’s Classics major)
4. IDS 3662 – Arts Connections (does not meet any specific major requirement)

The General Education Committee will review prior years’ assessment information and enrollments after October 15th to make a recommendation regarding the retention or suspension of these course offerings.

Category Three: Upper level general education courses offered for the Honors Program at USFSP.

1. IDH 3100 – Arts & Humanities
2. IDH 3350 – Natural Sciences
3. IDH 3400 – Social & Behavioral Sciences
4. IDH 3600 – Seminar in Applied Ethics
5. IDH 4200 – Geographic Perspectives

The General Education Committee recommends continuing offering, assessing, and reviewing these courses.

Category Four: Upper level general education course which should be coded with a lower level number according to the State Common Course Numbering System.

1. MUL 3012 – Music in Your Life

The General Education Committee awaits a response from the inquiry submitted by our Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs to the USF Dean of Undergraduate Studies requesting a correction.