Draft General Education Framework

J. Dickinson
Associate Provost
Academic Affairs
Gen Ed Alignment Task Force

• Charged by Provost Prelock in June to bring a plan to leadership and Faculty Senate

• Has representation from all of the undergraduate degree-granting schools and colleges

• Will continue to manage revision process through May
NECHE requires a Gen Ed curriculum that:

- Is “coherent and substantive. It embodies the institution’s definition of an educated person and prepares students for the world in which they live.” (Standard 4.16)
  
- “Informs the design of all general education courses, and provides criteria for its evaluation, including the assessment of what students learn.” (Standard 4.16)
  
- Shows “a balanced regard for what are traditionally referred to as the arts and humanities, the sciences [and] mathematics, and the social sciences.” (Standard 4.17)
  
- Has “students complete at least the equivalent of 40 semester credits in a bachelor’s degree program.” (Standard 4.18)
Gen Ed Alignment Process: Vision and Goal

**Vision:** UVM General Education should expose students to the intellectual breadth of the liberal arts, develop the skills needed to integrate and apply diverse areas of knowledge, and build the foundations for lifelong learning and active participation in local and global communities.

**Goal:** A General Education curriculum that will prepare our students to become the “accountable leaders who will bring to their work dedication to the global community, a grasp of complexity, effective problem-solving and communication skills, and an enduring commitment to learning and ethical conduct” described in the UVM mission statement.
Additional Category Proposals

• Received 11 proposals
• Reviewed and discussed each of them
• Considered:
  • academic value for all students
  • overall complexity of the framework
  • whether needed capacity can likely be reached
  • whether adding this component would allow flexibility for completing an undergraduate degree
• Incorporated elements of proposals into “Core Skills” and “Common Ground Values” curricular areas
CURRENT UNIVERSITY WIDE GEN ED STRUCTURE (15 credits)

D1 RACE AND RACISM IN THE U.S.
D2 DIVERSITY OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE
FWIL FOUNDATIONAL WRITING AND INFORMATION LITERACY
QR QUANTITATIVE REASONING
SU SUSTAINABILITY
**CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM**

**CATAMOUNT CORE** is made up of 42 credits in courses distributed across three main areas: LIBERAL ARTS (18 credits); CORE SKILLS (12 credits); and COMMON GROUND VALUES (12 credits).

Students will be able to take courses that fulfill more than one category BUT they MUST still take at least 40 unique credits of courses that have been approved to fulfill CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM requirements.

### LIBERAL ARTS

**18 CREDITS**

| H1, H2, H3 | HUMANITIES AND ARTS | 6 credits |
| S1 | SOCIAL SCIENCES | 6 credits |
| N1, N2 | NATURAL SCIENCES | 6 credits |

### CORE SKILLS

**12 CREDITS**

- QR QUANTITATIVE REASONING
- FWIL Foundational Writing and Info Literacy
- COMMUNICATION 1
- COMMUNICATION 2
- WIL2 Writing and Info Literacy Tier 2 or Oral Communication
- IA Integration and Application of Knowledge in the Major

### COMMON GROUND VALUES

**12 CREDITS**

- D1 DIVERSITY 1
- D2 DIVERSITY 2
- SU SUSTAINABILITY
- GC GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
- SJ SOCIAL JUSTICE*

* SOCIAL JUSTICE is a co-requirement that can be attached to a course approved in any of the other COMMON GROUND VALUES.
A closer look at Global Citizenship

• Focuses on decision-making and problem solving skills that support key elements in our mission statement: “dedication to the global community...effective problem-solving...skills, and an enduring commitment to learning and ethical conduct”

• Reflects special areas of faculty expertise and topical focus across the university, based on the proposals submitted in the fall

• Skills developed in these courses prepare students to be engaged global citizens

• Encourages students to look for exciting problem-based learning opportunities across the university
A closer look at the SJ co-requirement

• SJ proposal met criteria, overlapped with a subset of courses fulfilling existing requirements

• The co-requirement allows flexibility, but ensures that students take an action-oriented course that builds capacity for meeting social justice goals
Other key elements:

- **Three curricular areas**: Liberal Arts, Core Skills, Common Ground Values

- **40 credit rule**: Students can “double dip,” but they must still take 40 credits of Gen Ed approved courses overall

- **Central Approval**: A university-wide Gen Ed Curriculum committee will approve courses; current Gen Ed committees will be folded into this larger committee

- **A Gen Ed Coordinator** will oversee the curriculum. Half-time, faculty position
Next Steps:

• Ad hoc committees have been empaneled for each new proposed category
• Ad hoc committees
  • Senators and faculty with teaching expertise, Task Force member as chairs,
  • work through February to refine the category descriptions/approval criteria and its role relative to the Gen Ed curriculum;
  • report to Faculty Senate Exec and to the Task Force before Spring break
• The Task Force will incorporate this work into a revised framework
Offer feedback:

Open Forums:

February 12th 11:30-1 in the Livak Room
February 20th 2-3:30 in Memorial Lounge
March 25th 11-12:30 in Memorial Lounge
March 31st 11:30-1 in Livak Room
## Detailed Timeline for Spring 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2020</td>
<td>Final Draft Framework discussed with senior leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27, 2020</td>
<td>Review of framework at Faculty Senate meeting; call for nominations for ad hoc committees to refine Gen Ed category criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>Ad hoc committees empaneled and working (up to Spring Break)</td>
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<td>*Open forums: February 12th and February 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2020</td>
<td>Alignment Task Force revises curriculum based on ad hoc committee work</td>
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<td>*Open forums: March 25th and March 31st</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 23, 2020</td>
<td>Revised Gen Ed categories/framework presented for discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20, 2020</td>
<td>Continued discussion and vote on Gen Ed Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Gen Ed curriculum presented to Board of Trustees</td>
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## TENTATIVE Implementation Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Implementation Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>- Establish Gen Ed Curriculum Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>- Begin course approvals for all categories.</td>
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<td>2022-2023</td>
<td>- Units address curriculum and catalogue changes to align with Gen Ed</td>
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<td>Phase 1 adding in Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences Gen Ed requirements for class of 2026. Ongoing assessment of capacity based on course approvals for new categories.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023-2024</td>
<td>Goal to begin phase 2 implementation for class of 2027 for all remaining Gen Ed categories.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023-2025</td>
<td>Assessment of progress, and opportunity to consider some revisions to the curriculum. Spring 2024: 5-year interim report to NECHE.</td>
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Questions?