

# Draft General Education Framework

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Academic Affairs



**CATAMOUNT CORE**  
CURRICULUM



# CATAMOUNT CORE

## C U R R I C U L U M

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# 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



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# 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)



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# 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.



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# 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 COMMUNICATION 1  
Foundational Writing and Info Literacy

WIL2 COMMUNICATION 2  
Writing and Info Literacy Tier 2

or  
OC 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.

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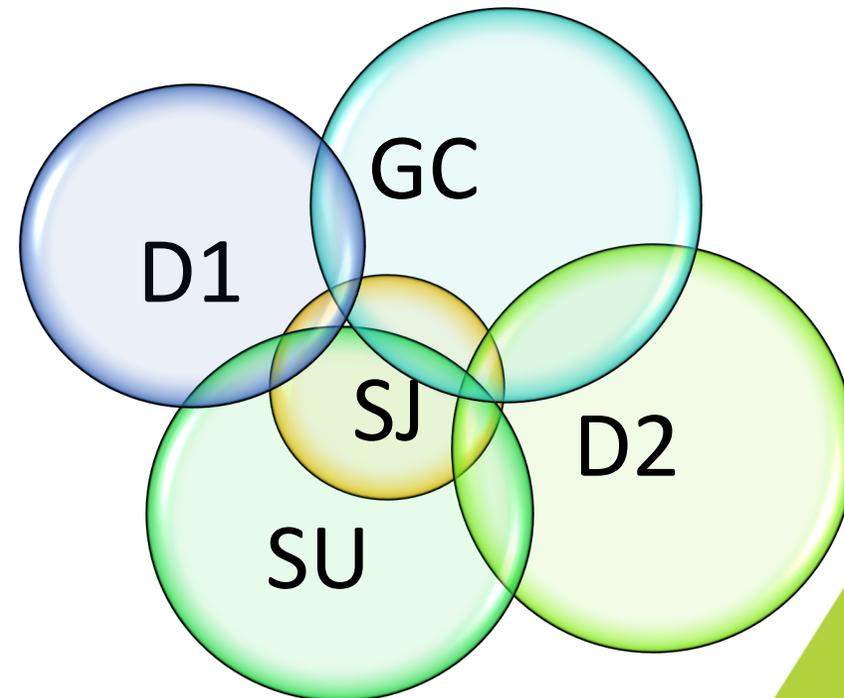
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# A closer look at Global Citizenship

- 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



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## 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



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## 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



### The administration and the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont share responsibility for the effective management of the academic affairs of the University.

Authority in matters related to the academic mission of the University is vested in the faculty by the Board of Trustees. This authority is exercised in the Faculty Senate by elected senators with voting privileges and by committees authorized to act on their behalf. Meetings of the Faculty Senate are presided over by a Senate President and Vice-President and follow a town-meeting format at which all University faculty members have a voice.

#### Elected Senators



Senators are the elected representatives of their academic units to the Faculty Senate. Senators are responsible for communicating with the faculty in their units about all Faculty Senate actions, as well as bringing information from their academic units to the attention of the Senate and Senate Committees. [Elected Senators for 2019-2020](#)

FACULTY SENATE FAQs



FACULTY SENATE SUGGESTION BOX



FACULTY SENATE  
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS



The UVM Faculty Senate meetings are open to the public, and are generally held on the fourth Monday of each month from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. in the Waterman Memorial Lounge. The May meeting is an exception to the general meeting pattern.

#### NOTICE:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be:

**Monday, January 27, 2020**

**4:00 - 5:30 p.m.,**

Waterman Memorial Lounge.

- [January Meeting Agenda and Materials >>](#)
- [2019-2020 Senate Meeting Schedule >>](#)

# Detailed Timeline for Spring 2020

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

# TENTATIVE Implementation Timeline

Academic Year	Implementation Goals
2020-2021 2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Establish Gen Ed Curriculum Committee</li><li>- Begin course approvals for all categories.</li><li>- Units address curriculum and catalogue changes to align with Gen Ed</li></ul>
2022-2023	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.
2023-2024	Goal to begin phase 2 implementation for class of 2027 for all remaining Gen Ed categories.
2023-2025	Assessment of progress, and opportunity to consider some revisions to the curriculum. Spring 2024: 5-year interim report to NECHE.

# Questions?



The University of Vermont