



The University of Vermont

**General Education Alignment Task Force
UVM General Education Framework and Call for Proposals (Additional Categories)
October 10, 2019**

General Education Framework

The General Education (Gen Ed) Alignment Task Force was appointed in Summer 2019 by Interim Provost Prelock with the goal of creating a common general education curriculum for all UVM undergraduate students that aligns with both a faculty vision for undergraduate education and with the criteria outlined in the [New England Commission of Higher Education \(NECHE\) standards 4.16-4.18](#).

The Alignment Task Force, taking into consideration current requirements across the undergraduate schools and colleges, and models from a range of comparable institutions, has been working on a basic framework for General Education. This framework is not a final proposal; a more detailed proposal will be brought to the Faculty Senate for further discussion, finalization, and approval of specific criteria/outcomes for categories in Spring 2020.

NECHE Standards for Accreditation specify that General Education must be coherent and substantive, reflect faculty ideas of what an educated person should be, and be evaluated and assessed as a curriculum. The curriculum must comprise at least 40 credits and include coursework in Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences, including Mathematics.

Proposed General Education Framework

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

Centralized Approval: The Alignment Task Force is recommending the establishment of a unified university-level faculty General Education Curriculum Committee. Inclusion of courses in the Gen Ed program would be by approval of the Gen Ed Curriculum Committee, which will also have oversight of Gen Ed at UVM. The Committee would be led by a faculty General Education Coordinator.

Current Gen Ed Categories: The current 15 credits of Gen Ed will be incorporated into the General Education program.

New Categories: Gen Ed courses will be distributed among categories, including the NECHE-specified areas of Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences, including Mathematics. The Alignment Task Force is also committed to an additional category: “Integration and Application of Knowledge in the Major.” These categories ensure that our General Education meets NECHE requirements, while also reflecting other commonalities in curricula across the University.

Students will be able to take courses that fulfill more than one category (e.g., Humanities and D1) but they **MUST** still take 40 unique credits of Gen Ed approved courses to graduate.

At this time, the Alignment Task Force also invites proposals for new Gen Ed categories, beyond those listed above.

Proposal Process

Proposers must fill out the attached form completely and submit it electronically to Associate Provost J. Dickinson with a copy to Catherine Symans in the Provost’s Office by 4 p.m. on November 15, 2019. Proposers must have an active, salaried faculty appointment at UVM. Only complete proposals will be considered. As General Education is envisioned as spanning the University, proposers are strongly encouraged to think broadly about their proposed category and its importance to students across campus, and to partner with faculty from multiple departments, schools and colleges to draft a strong proposal. Strong proposals will offer multiple pathways for completion, rather than relying on a narrow set of courses.

The Task Force will carefully review all proposals and incorporate components into the detailed Gen Ed framework presented to the Faculty Senate in Spring 2020.

PROPOSALS DUE November 15, 2019
Email completed proposals as a single PDF to [J. Dickinson and Catherine Symans](#)
Proposal for an Additional General Education Category

Please answer all questions below. Incomplete proposals cannot be considered.

1. Proposer's name(s) and program(s)/department(s). Add more rows as needed:

Name	Program/Dept.

2. **Name** of proposed category.
3. **Brief description** of the category (150-300 words).
4. **Justification** for the category in the context of the Gen Ed vision statement. Why should every UVM undergraduate student fulfill this category as part of their education? (300 words).
5. Please include a summary of the **learning outcomes** all UVM students would be expected to achieve in this category.
6. Have you identified **other institutions** that have this or a similar category? If so, please provide links to these institutions' Gen Ed/core curriculum page(s).
7. Briefly summarize **selection criteria** that could be used to determine whether a course should be approved to meet this category.
8. Identify **UVM faculty and programs** that currently offer (or could offer) courses that would satisfy this Gen Ed category. Have you contacted them and asked them to join you on this proposal?
9. Please provide a broad range of current courses that you think would fulfill this requirement. You can also suggest courses that would need to be developed or revised.
10. What, if any, resources or training would be needed to make enough spots in qualifying classes available to all UVM students?