# General Education Committee Annual Report 2022-2023

Membership  
Faculty   
Coreen Duffy, Music (2023) Co-Chair  
Jen Thomsen, Forestry (2024) Co-Chair  
Theresa Floyd, Management & Marketing (2025)  
Soazig Lebihan, Philosophy (2025)  
Kim Reiser, Missoula College (2025)  
Gregory Larson, Communication Studies (2025)  
Katie Karas, Social Work (fall-only)  
Anh Nguyen, Computer Science (2025)  
Khaled Huthaily, Modern & Classical Languages (attended a few fall meetings)

Students  
Emma Wickum

### Additional Representatives (Ex-Officio)

Kimber McKay, Acting Vice Provost

## Responsibilities outlined in the Faculty Senate Bylaws

The primary responsibility of the General Education Committee is ongoing evaluation and assessment of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the general education requirements and criteria. The General Education Committee acts as an advocate for general education, proposes revisions to its requirements and criteria, reviews proposals, and ensures that all general education requirements are feasible within campus constraints, Board of Regents policies and legislative actions.

## Meeting

The Committee mostly met face-to-face this year. The November 30th and February 22nd meetings were on Zoom given schedules and extreme weather conditions.

## General Education Course Review

In the fall the Committee reviewed and approved 2 new general education courses (SOCI 301 *Criminal Justice Ethics* and MART 245 *Sound Production & Design Fundamentals*). SOCI 301 was given provisional status and MART 245 was given full approval since it had previously been taught as an experimental course

## Rolling Review

The General Education Committee also conducted the rolling review of Expressive Arts (A), and Social Science courses (S). Assessment reports were submitted for groups previously reviewed as well. The submitted forms were divided into three groups of 2 members for review. Each group reviewed 24 forms. Most forms were submitted in Coursedog, but some were submitted as word/ PDF files. The contract with Coursedog expired September 30th so all the forms were converted to PDF and the workgroups were provided with a summary that included the Box links.

A total of 110 forms were reviewed. Similar to the last rolling review, many courses did not supply adequate evidence of assessment and several required assessment plan clarifications and some were missing general education learning outcomes on course syllabi. [The Syllabus Guidelines (201.30.5) were revised to include the following statement: “*If course meets a general education requirement, a statement describing which requirement it meets and why -include the learning outcomes for the general education group or link*.” – approved by Faculty Senate 4/13/23  
The subcommittee chairs sent several follow-up communications specifying the need for revision. Extensions were granted to a few courses that did not provide follow-up information. Departments decided to drop the general education designation for 18 Expressive Arts courses and 6 Social Science courses.   
  
The tables below shows the distribution of forms and the summary of the rolling review. The results of the [rolling review](https://umt.box.com/s/9qfcj0ssefc611q6z6c2bd4020pp6t0l) were approved by the Faculty Senate 3/16/23.

### General Education Form Distribution

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Workgroup I | Workgroup II | Workgroup III | Workgroup IV |
| Coreen Duffy Teresa Floyd | Jenn Thomsen Anh Nguyen | Kim Reiser Soazig Lebihan | Gregory Larson Katie Karas |
| 14 Expr 3 Dem & Cit 6 Lit | 8 Social 8 Expr 1 Lang Exempt 7 Nat Sci | 8 Ethics 8 Social 8 Expr | 8 Social 8 Expr 5 Hist  3 Cult & Int |

Summary of General Education Course Rolling review

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2019-2020** | **Full approval** | | **Provisional** | | **Extension** | |
|  | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Historical Studies | 25 | 5 | 26 | 1 |  |  |
| Democracy & Citizenship | 15 | 3 | 10 |  |  |  |
| Cultural & International Diversity | 17 | 3 | 31 |  | 2 | 2 |
| **2020-2021** (CD) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Literary & Artistic Studies | 11 | 6 | 44 |  | 7 | 7 |
| Natural Science | 13 | 6 | 23 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Math | 14 |  |  |  | 3 | 3 |
| **2021-2022** (CD) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Language | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 |  |  |
| Language Exemption | 38 | 4 |  |  | 2 | 2 |
| Ethics | 16 |  | 11 |  | 4 | 4 |
| **2022-2023** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Expressive Arts (61) |  | 8 |  | 35 |  |  |
| Social Science (39) |  | 6 |  | 16 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Review Issues

The form submitted for HSTR 391 *Human Rights* was not approved. The form did not do a good job of showing how students are assessed on their understanding and application of ethical theory. The course was previously offered as an Ethics course, but the instructor retired and did not apply to renew the designation. The assessment report for HSTR 272 *Terrorism* was not sufficient. The professor was given one more opportunity to provide evidence that the course is addressing the ethics learning outcomes.

The Committee approved the second offering of an Experimental General Education course (MUSI 191 Hip Hop) in the fall. The program plans to submit a course form to establish the permanent course in the fall.

## Other Business

* The Committee received an inquiry from Assistant Director of Admissions, Brigitta Lee with regard to how a student might use the [Prior Learning Assessment](https://www.umt.edu/faculty-senate/procedures/ascrc-procedures-201/prior-learning-assessment-pla-guidelines-203.30.pdf) process to receive credit for general education courses. The student took courses at Penn Foster College which does not have accreditation recognized by the Montana University System Board of Regents. The Committee drafted the [General Education Transfer Appeal Procedure](https://umt.box.com/s/qzafrpfvpf2i7v05vzocf3adsu00x3p9) which was considered and edited by ASCRC and approved by the Faculty Senate on 3/16/23.
* The Committee considered and approved the [motion to allow MC students to use MUS Core](https://umt.box.com/s/7zap119n3h9ikkdu6hnknf06evqadp8t). It will help provide Missoula College students the same opportunity as students transferring from other MUS campuses. Missoula College Academic Advisors will certify student’s eligibility to use the MUS Core. The Registrar provided information [about implementation challenges](https://umt.box.com/s/r4shjuah7ix9gjgea8520nh7nj83o6q6). Associate Registrar Troy Morgan attended the 2/8/23 meeting to discuss the issues.
* The Committee Co-Chairs received the [ASUM Resolution](https://umt.box.com/s/tkfqgakf7shcd42m6chmhlaea56e5wy5) that would require General Education Course ISBN book numbers be available upon registration. This issue is not limited to general education courses, but is an equity issue across all courses that limits students access to course materials. The Committee suggested the author ask the ASUM Leadership to discuss the issue with the President’s Cabinet and potentially contact the Faculty Senate Leadership.
* The Committee considered the possibility of instituting a minimum level of enrollment for general education courses. The deans already set enrollment minimums, but the committee would like to review data. The sample data provided was problematic because it included dual enrollment courses. Additional data points are needed to make the data useful. The Committee will ask for the better data next fall. (4/19/23)

## Communication Items:

* The Committee met with several guests including Vice Provost Wolter (9/14/23) and Interim Deputy Commissioner Joe Thiel (11/30/23) and discussed the opportunity and implications of joining the Interstate Passport, a general education block transfer program. OCHE offered a fee waiver for the first two years to join the program. Ultimately the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education decided not to support the continuation of the program after the grant funding ended and there are challenges with reporting the information to the national clearing house. Campuses currently in the program will sign an agreement to continue.
* The Committee was informed that the New AP Precalculus Exam has been reviewed by the Mathematics department to be equivalent to M151. M151 which satisfies the Mathematics General Education requirement. This item will be communicated to the Faculty Senate and the admissions website will be updated.
* Claudine Cellier, Accreditation Liaison Officer started attending meetings in the spring to listen and learn about how Faculty Senate assesses general education. She is preparing UM’s Year Seven Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness report for NWCCU, UM’s accreditor, due March 1, 2024. This report will include a site visit from external evaluators and they will meet with groups like the General Education committee to learn more about UM’s approach toward assessment of learning outcomes.   
    
  There was a discussion about assessment at the February 22nd meeting. The assessment report should highlight things we are doing well as well as areas that need improvement. Members provided feedback on how the rolling review of general education courses with the added assessment requirement has been going. Improvements are needed for the process to be useful and meaningful for faculty.
* The General Education Ad Hoc Committee (GEAHC) was on pause fall semester to allow Academic Renewal to take shape. GEAHC Committee Chair Isho Tama-Sweet met with the General Education Committee 4/12/23 to provide an update. The spring meetings with President Bodnar and Provost Mahdavi, and then the Academic Deans did not provide direction or recommendations for the revision effort.
* James Randall, Faculty Fellow for the Office of Experiential Learning and Career Success requested the Committee to consider incorporating [Career Readiness Competencies](https://umt.app.box.com/file/1189058871249) into general education learning outcomes. (4/12/23) The Committee approved a [motion](https://umt.box.com/s/dvv3ydnaelzl9nl0eaunpzx3d4ftpbcb) to consider the issue next academic year.

## Pending

* The President would like the Committees to take a critical look at general education. Does the program achieve its goals/ intended role? What are the barriers? Is it too complex or confusing for students? Are the number of courses or uneven distribution overwhelming for students? Are the courses meeting the needs of students? Can efficiencies be incorporated?
* Guidelines for Department chairs regarding teaching and review of general education courses are needed. Faculty should know the expectation of review and assessment for general education courses. Ideally this should be formative assessment planned by the faculty member to ensure the learning of the general education learning goals. The goal of the assessment report is to close the loop on assessment: identify outcomes, gather evidence, interpret, implement change, gather evidence again.   
    
  The guidelines should include information on how to manage assessment when multiple sections are offered, when the courses are taught by adjunct instructors, and when anew faculty member is assigned to teach a general education course.