

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM

NO: 12-05

Date: 26 March 2012

Submitted by: Dr. Randy Pembroke, VPAA, ext. 1649

SUBJECT: Phase 1 – General Education Refinement

Description:

After much discussion by two separate ad hoc committees and the Academic Affairs Committee, the following general education refinement is recommended for Phase 1 of the General Education program:

PHASE 1

1. The previously accepted five student learning outcomes (SLO) and their definitions are being presented to the faculty for official approval/ratification thus replacing the nine skills currently listed in the University Catalog.
2. The following expectations will be required of all current and future General Distribution (Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics) and Core Courses at Washburn. [Core definition: Courses required of all degrees. All students must complete the Core Courses with a grade of C or better.]
 - a. Each course will identify a primary SLO. (Projected date for submission to the General Education/Student Learning Outcome Review Committee for approval: Fall 2012)
 - b. Each course will include objectives relating to the SLO.
 - c. A substantial portion (a minimum of 30% is recommended) of the course content and therefore the assessment process should relate to the SLO.
 - d. Regarding the SLO assessments occurring at the course level, a process for making the analyzed data available to instructors and departments will be developed. The rationale based on this analysis pertaining to any course changes will be presented to the university-wide Assessment Committee, Units and Schools.
 - e. Data relating to assessing the course SLO objectives will be shared with an assessment coordinator for use by the department in higher learning commission (HLC) data sets and the general education 5-year course review.
3. To guarantee assessment expertise on the General Education Committee two representatives from the University Assessment Committee will be appointed to serve on the General Education/Student Learning Outcome Review Committee to provide guidance on the course SLO assessment processes and analysis.
4. Phase 1 activities will be completed based on the attached proposed implementation plan for an effective date of Fall 2013.
5. The attached University Catalog copy would replace the current Graduation Requirements section of the 2013-2014 University Catalog.

Financial Implications: *None*

Proposed Effective Date: Phase 1 Implementation Fall 2013

Request for Action: *Approval by FAC/FS/ Gen Fac/BOR*

PHASES 2 AND 3----**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

While Phases 2 and 3 are included to reflect future directions for General Education development, at this juncture these are the best predictions regarding content and timelines. **THESE ELEMENTS MAY CHANGE BASED ON ONGOING DISCUSSIONS.**

PHASE 2

1. In addition to the assessment process taking place at the General Distribution level (Phase 1, Point 2), an overarching assessment process will be presented by December 2012, relating to proposed entry and/or exit capabilities of Washburn students on the SLOs.

PHASE 3

1. Based on data from both the overarching assessment process and the course-based process, recommendations will be made by September 2015 as to specific potential **General Education course requirements** (e.g., Should each student take at least one course in each SLO area as part of the General Distribution requirement; Are core courses sufficient and appropriate based on learning outcomes, etc.). The General Education “Core” (those courses [or transfer equivalents] required of all Washburn students) will be reviewed.
2. Based on data from both the overarching assessment process and the course-based process, recommendations will be made by September 2015 as to the specific potential **Major Area course requirements** (e.g., each student must take at least one course in three SLO areas as part of the Major Area of study).
3. This change in general education provides an excellent opportunity for each academic unit to review their existing general distribution groupings and determine whether any changes should be submitted through the governance process for approval.

Approved by: AAC on date

FAC on date

Faculty Senate on date

Attachments Yes X No ☐