

General Education Program: Recommendations for a Revised Curriculum

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Goals for Revising General Education

- Focus on student success & degree attainment
- Modernize the curriculum content and pedagogy
- Increase student choice and learner engagement
- Make room for more rigorous, upper-division credential opportunities such as Minors and second Majors
- Incorporate and promote elements of the University Mission and Strategic Plan such as Diversity and Engagement



Current General Education Program

- Adopted in 1986, Statute 2.43.03
- Minor revisions over last 10+ years
- Consists of 46+ credits
 - Group requirements –
 - breadth across sciences, humanities & arts
 - Competencies – areas of proficiency, demonstrable by test



Current General Education Program

- Group Requirements:
 - Physical sciences (PS) (3)
 - Life sciences (LS), (+L) Lab (4)
 - Historical studies (HS)(3)
 - Social sciences (SS) (3)
 - American institutions (AI) (3)
 - Foreign culture (FC) (3)
 - Visual & Performing arts (VP) (3)
 - Philosophy & Letters (PL) (3)



Current General Education Program

- Competencies

- Written communication: Basic comp (BC) (3), Intermediate comp (IC) (3), Writing Intensive (WI) (3), English proficiency exam (EP)*
- Oral communication (OC) (3)
- Mathematics proficiency (MP) (3)
- Computer literacy (CL) (3)** , Computer proficiency (CP) (3)**
- Critical thinking (CT) (3)

* Discontinued ca. 2005

** Discontinued ca. 2014



General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC)

- 2.43.03.250
 - *The president or his/her designee shall establish an Oversight Committee for the purpose of making recommendations on the implementation and review of the General Education curriculum.*
- Membership from undergrad degree granting colleges:
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, College of Fine, Performing & Communication Arts, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy & Allied Health, Nursing



General Education Reform

- Minor revisions 2005-2014
- Drawing on membership from GEOC and experts on campus, *ad hoc* General Education Reform Committee (GERC) convened in 2014
- Charge
 1. Review
 2. Agree on major parameters (principles and values)
 3. Determine learning goals and outcomes
 4. Design curricular structure

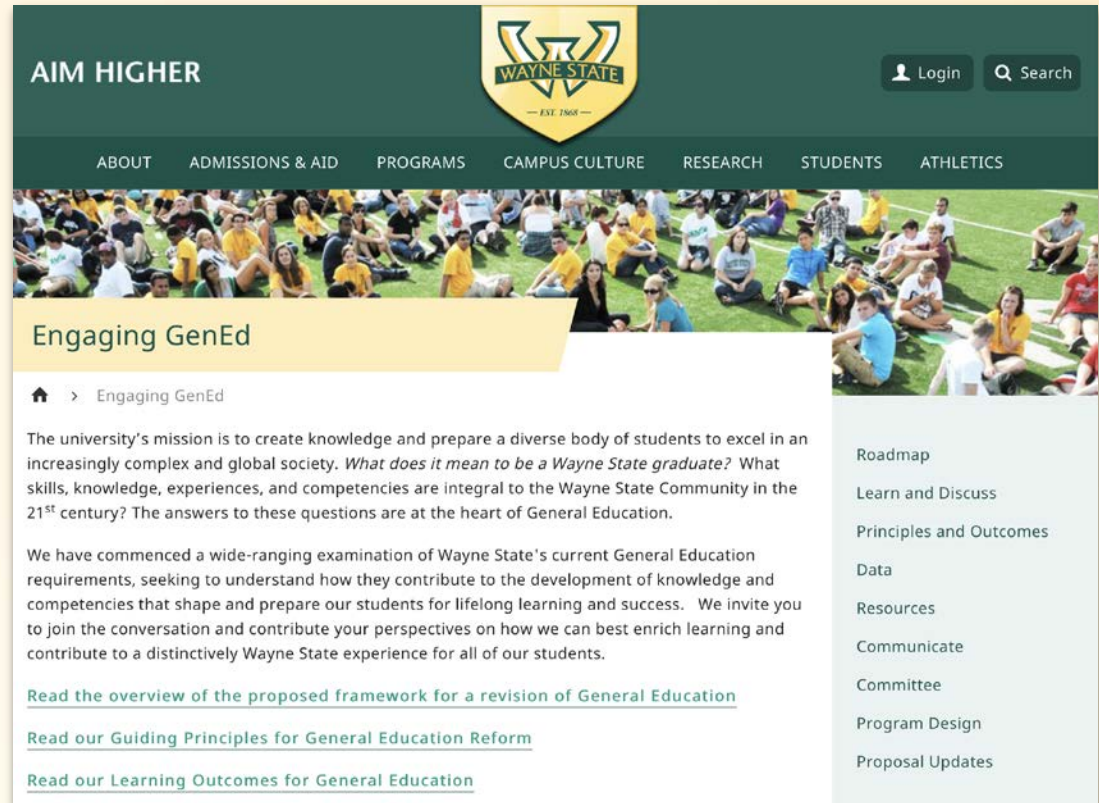


GERC Documents & Data

<http://www.wayne.edu/engaging-gened>

GERC Reports documented on public website

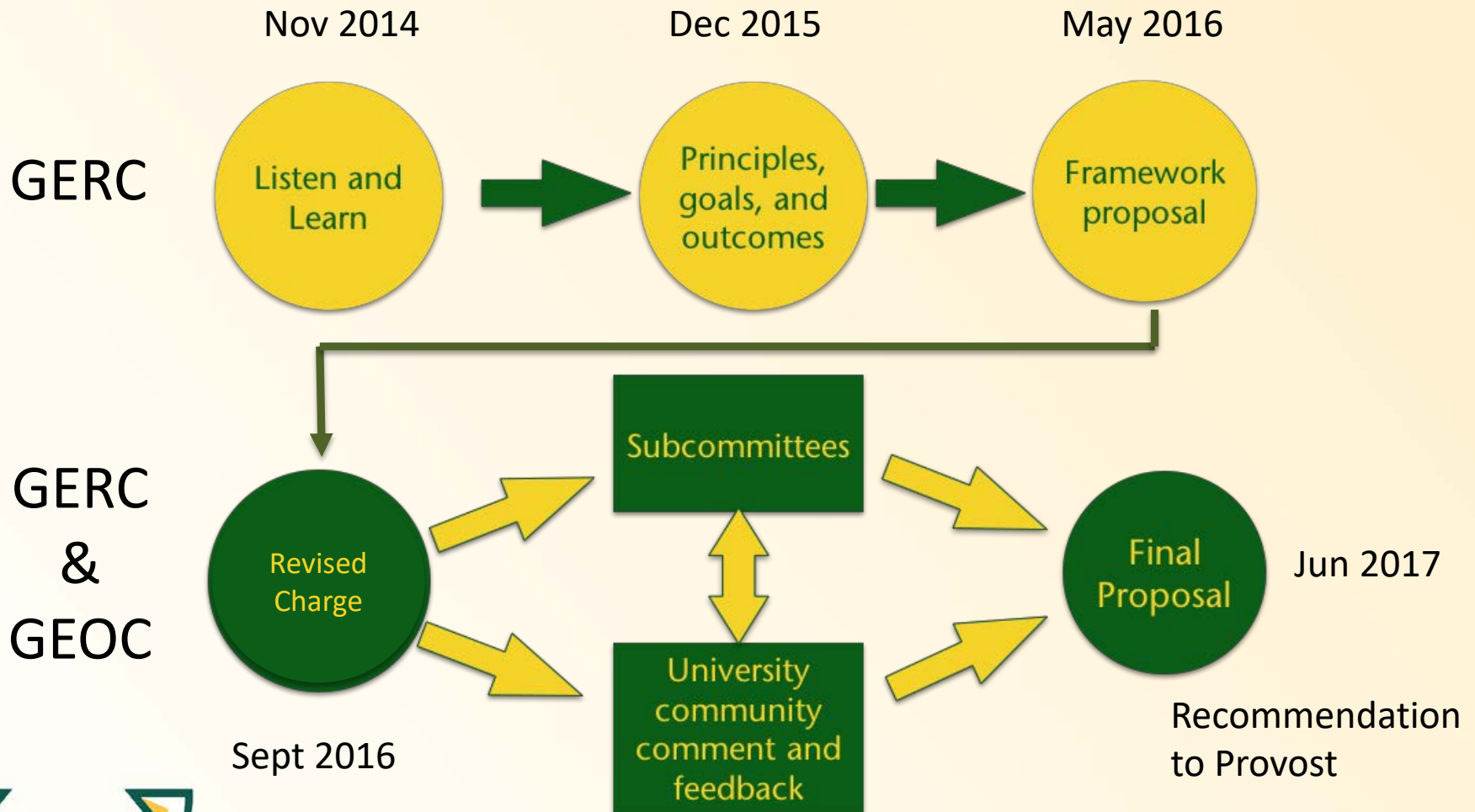
- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Review of best practices
- Reports & memos from campus stakeholders



The screenshot displays the Wayne State University website's 'Engaging GenEd' page. At the top, there is a dark green header with the 'AIM HIGHER' slogan on the left, the Wayne State University logo in the center, and 'Login' and 'Search' buttons on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'ABOUT', 'ADMISSIONS & AID', 'PROGRAMS', 'CAMPUS CULTURE', 'RESEARCH', 'STUDENTS', and 'ATHLETICS'. The main content area features a large photograph of a diverse group of students sitting on a grassy field. Below the photo, the page title 'Engaging GenEd' is displayed in a yellow banner. The main text area contains a breadcrumb trail 'Home > Engaging GenEd', followed by a paragraph about the university's mission and the importance of general education. Below this, there are three underlined links: 'Read the overview of the proposed framework for a revision of General Education', 'Read our Guiding Principles for General Education Reform', and 'Read our Learning Outcomes for General Education'. On the right side, a light blue sidebar contains a vertical list of links: 'Roadmap', 'Learn and Discuss', 'Principles and Outcomes', 'Data', 'Resources', 'Communicate', 'Committee', 'Program Design', and 'Proposal Updates'.



GERC & GEOC Process



Academic Senate Input

- GEOC approved preliminary recommendation in June 2017
- Review & Revision of GEOC Recommendation
 - May - Aug 2017: Provost review with consultation of Academic Senate Policy Committee
 - Sept 2017: Revised proposal distributed to Academic Senate Subcommittees (Curriculum & Instruction, Student Affairs, Faculty Affairs, Research & Budget)
 - Sept - Oct 2017: Senate subcommittees review and adopt further revisions
 - Nov 1: Academic Senate voted on amended recommendation



Revised Gen Ed Curriculum

A. Foundational Competencies (12 cr.)

Communication

Basic composition (3 cr.)

Intermediate composition (3 cr.)

Oral communication (3 cr.)

Quantitative Experience

Mathematics, Statistics or Quantitative Reasoning course (3 cr.)

B. Wayne Experience/Wayne Focus (1 cr.)

Wayne Experience (WE) (1 cr.) *(after delayed implementation)*

C. Inquiries (19 cr.)

Students select six courses total, one from each category.

Cultural Inquiry (CI) (3 cr.)

Natural Scientific Inquiry (NSI) (3 cr.) with lab (1 cr.)

Social Inquiry (SI) (3 cr.)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) (3 cr.)

Global Learning (GL) (3 cr.)

Civic Literacy (CE) (3 cr.)

TOTAL: 32 cr.



Summary of Curriculum Revisions

Requirement	Current Statute	New Program
Competencies (renamed “Foundational Courses”)		
Basic Composition (BC)	1 course	1 course
Intermediate Comp (IC)	1 course	1 course
Oral Communication (OC)	1 course	1 course
Critical Thinking (CT)	1 course	N/A
Math Competency (MC)	1 course	1 course (now QE)
Competency Subtotal Credits	15	12
Wayne Experience		
Wayne Experience	N/A	1 course (1 cr.)



Summary of Curriculum Revisions

Requirement	Current Statute	New Program
Group Requirements (redesigned as “Inquiry” areas)		
American Institutions (AI)	1 course	1 course (“Civic Literacy”)
Physical Sciences (PS)	1 course	1 course (“Natural Science Inquiry”) + Lab
Life Sciences (LS)	1 course	
Lab Science (+L)	1 credit, taken with LS or PS course	All eligible courses will have 1 credit lab component
Philosophy & Letters (PL)	1 course	1 course (“Cultural Inquiry”)
Visual & Performing Arts (VP)	1 course	
Social Sciences (SS)	1 course	1 course (“Social Inquiry”)
Historical Studies (HS)	1 course	N/A
Computer Literacy (CL)	1 course	N/A
Writing Intensive (WI)	1 course	N/A
Foreign Culture (FC)	1 course	1 course (“Global Learning”)
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)	N/A	1 course (“DEI”)
Group Requirement/Inquiries Subtotal Credits	31	19



Next Steps

- Adoption of revisions to statute 2.43.03
- Implement during fall 2017 & winter 2018, revising bulletin and DegreeWorks
- Advisor training
- Student outreach
 - Requirements
 - Bulletin-in-effect policy & Degree Audit What-If
- New requirements in effect fall 2018

