Re-imagining General Education



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Why re-imagine?: Keeping it Student Centered



Consider your students as you think about curriculum:

- Intersectionality How do 21st century students understand themselves and their world?
- Digital How do they access information?
- Interdisciplinary How do they connect information to create knowledge?
- Citizenship How do they use knowledge to develop wisdom?
- Career readiness and Passion What engages them, keeps their focus, and drives their career journey?

Why re-imagine?: Social Justice in the Classroom Making positive change in the world

- Connecting with students
- Discussing Real-world problems and multiple perspectives
- Creating classroom community
- Including authentic assessments



Summer Team Roster

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- Tommy Horejes (SSAQ)
- **Jerri Lyn Dorminy (Student Success)**
- Paige Franklin (Assistant Dean, UG Curriculum)
- Tami Santimyer (Recruiting)

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Sources

- GSR Self Study
- External reviewers
- Student focus groups
- AAC&U guidelines and materials
- Articles and research on general education trends
- General Education design at other institutions
- Gallup sponsored conference on higher education

Links to Resources

The summer group report and updates are available on a website under the Student Success and Academic Quality website.

This site will be updated through the process.

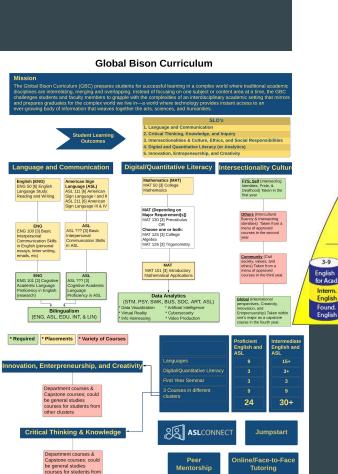
https://www.gallaudet.edu/student-success-and-academic-quality/general-education-redesign

The three proto-models

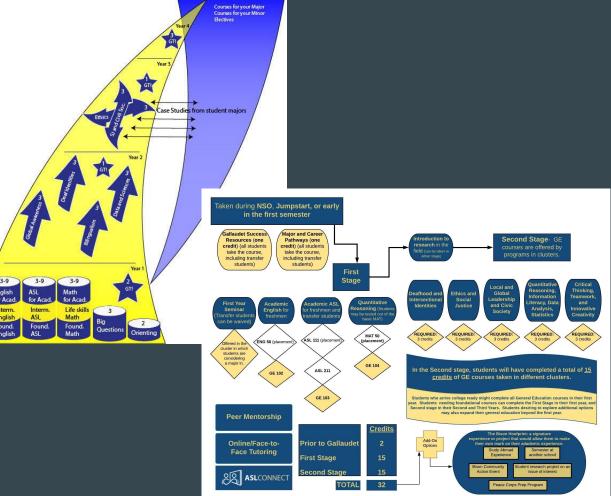
Adaptation model - seeks to meet the needs of 21st century students by building on strengths and adapting weaknesses of our current general education curriculum.

Hybrid model - seeks to build a broadly shared curriculum path that connects general education to student majors and minors.

Pathways model - seeks to be flexible and customizable to tailor to specific types of students we encounter.



other clusters



What do the models have in common

- Similar Student Learning Outcomes that incorporate innovation, digital literacy, bilingualism, career development, global citizenship, and social justice into our current cluster of outcomes
- A first semester focused on foundational skills in ASL, English, and Math
- Department ownership of courses with course approval oversight by a faculty council
- Retention of our Student Success units (Jumpstart, Peer mentoring, tutoring, etc.)
- An oversight that needs correcting to include health and wellness outcomes

What makes the adaptation model unique?

- Combines some of our current SLOs and implements two new SLOs of digital literacy and innovation.
- Reduces the number of credits required for general education creating more room for student electives, double majors, and minors.
- SLOs can be completed across both general education course and courses within one's major field of study.

What makes the hybrid model unique?

- First Year Seminar becomes a 'sampler' of disciplinary approaches to a common Big
 Question
- Presumes two 3 credit courses on the average for ASL, English, and Math
- The Ethics course and Social justice/Citizenship course are taught using case studies developed by students from their major field of study
- Gallaudet That! sequence integrates classroom learning with career goals
- Capstone course is integrated into student majors
- Gated four year plan of development of skills (years 2 and 3 might be intermixed)

What makes the pathways model unique?

- Implementation at first will seem fairly similar to what we have now, but can become more tailored to student needs as we commit to gathering better data on our students and develop more adaptive learning strategies
- Two staged plan for foundational skills followed by advanced skills. Could be completed in two semesters if a student is well prepared for college, or extended through one's college career
- First year seminar course takes place within one's academic cluster to build a cohort of similarly interested students.
- Bison Hoofprint allows students to choose a high impact experience to make their mark on their educational experience.

Developments since the summer workshops

- Freaky Fun Friday General Education Redesign Workshops every Friday from 11-2 as open collaborative community gatherings.
- Proposal to Faculty Senate to establish an ad hoc Council on General Education to oversee design decisions, clarify duties for a permanent council and directors, communication and lobby for resource allocation and generation for General Education needs.
- Proposed Student Learning Outcomes and emerging structural model built off the Pathways Model but incorporating some elements from the others.

Second Draft of Proposed Student Learning Outcomes

As a Gallaudet Scholar, my General Education will equip me to:

- 1. Be a bilingual communicator in ASL and written English in a diverse and multilingual world.
- 2. Understand intersectional identities, articulating my own experience and respecting the experiences of others.
- 3. Engage a complex world as a responsible global citizen in collaboration with others.
- 4. Be a critical thinker who connects varied information to solve problems in innovative ways.

- 5. Understand the natural world through scientific methods.
- 6. Make ethical judgments and act with wisdom.
- 7. Use digital information technology effectively and responsibly.
- 8. Be intentional in understanding and cultivating my health and well-being.

Questions that guide our community discussions:

- Which of the three models best prepares 21st Century Gallaudet students for success? Give your reasons.
- Which of the elements do you see in the models that most excite you?
- After reviewing the three models, what elements do you think pose the most challenge? Give your reasons.
- Are there aspects of General Education that the models have overlooked?