What is General Education?

• *Is intended to impart common knowledge and intellectual concepts to students and to develop in them the skills and attitudes that an organization’s faculty believe every educated person should possess.* (Higher Learning Commission, 2003)

• Prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century
• No common gen ed program
• Ranges from 12 to 68 hours
• Only 2 common courses
  • English composition
  • State requirement -- federal/state constitution course
• Missouri 42 hour block
General Education curriculum will:

- Ease transfer from other institutions
- Simplify change of major
- Tie curriculum to UMKC’s mission
- Align with state and national guidelines
- Define student learning goals
1. Identify learning outcomes for Gen Ed program
2. Map these outcomes to courses/experiences
3. Align program curricula as needed
4. Identify approaches to assess achievement of learning outcomes
5. Document student achievement of learning outcomes
6. Analyze samples of student work to identify programmatic weaknesses
7. Analyze student feedback to identify any programmatic weaknesses
8. Document programmatic reaction to any identified weaknesses
9. Explain programmatic modifications to address problems
10. Analyze effects of programmatic modifications
- **September 2009** – Carol Geary Schneider visit (President of the Association of American Colleges and Universities)
- **October 2009** – General Education Advisory Task Force convened
- **May 2010** – Task force guiding principles and report
General Education Advisory Task Force Committee Membership

Jolene Lynn – School of Nursing
Marilyn Taylor – Bloch School of Business and Public Administration
Linda Garavalia – School of Pharmacy
Julie Cheslik – School of Law
Paul Cuddy – School of Medicine
Laura Gayle Green – Libraries
Kim Bray – School of Dentistry

Cheryl Grossman – School of Education
Tim Timmons – Conservatory of Music and Dance
Deborah O’Bannon – School of Computing and Engineering
Lynda Plamann – School of Biological Sciences
Wayne Vaught – College of Arts and Sciences
Cindy Pemberton – Provost Office
Examined contemporary issues in Gen Ed
  • Reviewed national perspectives
  • Reviewed MO entrance and exit competencies
Explored best practices
  • Student success and student retention focused
  • Includes a student learning assessment component
  • Ongoing review and revision cycle

Includes a student learning assessment component
• Conducted focus groups with faculty, staff and students from various academic units

• Researched national peer institutions

• Met with faculty from University of Nebraska
Guiding Principles for Reform

- Measurable student learning outcomes
- Clearly articulated outcomes to students
- Helps students integrate learning
- Shared by all undergraduate programs
- Easy to understand by faculty, staff, and students
Guiding Principles for Reform

• Should facilitate advising for all undergraduate students
• Enhance the unique undergraduate experience available in our urban setting
• Include continuous review to reflect the changing culture and needs of our community
• Harmonious with academic program accreditation requirements
• Provides curricular and assessment support for institutions
• Has worked intensively on gen educ reform since early 1980s.
• Initiatives to ensure relevant Gen Ed curriculum.
• Work with campuses to strengthen Gen Ed programs or to reform specific aspects
AAC&U General Education Institute

Team
- Linda Garavalia
- Cindy Pemberton
- Lynda Plamann
- Tom Stroik
- Appie van de Liefvoort
- Wayne Vaught

Assignment
- June 2010 summer institute
- To review common approaches and best practices for revising general education
- Make recommendations regarding how to proceed at UMKC.
Common Approaches to Gen Ed

**Traditional**
1. Many courses from many disciplines
2. Courses taken in any sequence and at any time
3. General education program focused only on academic experiences gained inside the classroom or laboratory

**Reformed**
1. A limited number of carefully constructed courses
2. Developmental models where courses have prerequisite dependencies
3. Focus on the complete undergraduate experience (curricular and co-curricular)
The conference team affirmed the previous guiding principles of the General Education Advisory Task Force and offered the following additions:
A. Gen Ed is based on measurable student learning outcomes and should be reflective of the \textit{LEAP outcomes (AAC&U)}

B. Reflects our unique university mission

C. Addresses the needs of our student population and facilitates students success (timely degree completion and student retention)
Key Findings from AAC&U summer institute

D. Models intentionality
   • students understand the purpose and connection to their major and to life/career goals

E. Requires students to have at least one high impact learning experience as part of their gen ed (study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, internship)

F. Is a mixed model design
Next Steps

Communicate with all stakeholders about the need for general education revision

Commission a General Education Oversight Committee charged with: reviewing and making recommendations regarding UMKC general education program (including an assessment plan) for UMKC that not only will bring it in compliance with HLC expectations but also will be a signature UMKC program that emphasizes student success and builds on faculty expertise and that strengthens UMKC’s degree programs and supports UMKC’s Mission.
Tasks of the Gen Ed Oversight Committee

By December 2010

- Identify student learning outcomes

By May 2011

- Design the general education program model and a comprehensive implementation plan
Important Websites for Faculty

Provost Website

➤ Committees or Initiatives
  ➤ General Education Advisory Task Force

http://www.umkc.edu/provost/committees/general-education-advisory-task-force/default.asp

AAC&U Repository of Additional Resources

http://www.aacu.org/resources/generaleducation/index.cfm
General Education Oversight Committee

- College of Arts and Sciences: Andrea Drew, Leah Gensheimer, Clancy Martin
- University Libraries: Brent Husher
- Bloch School of Business and Public Administration: Kami Thomas
- School of Dentistry/General Education Task Force: Kim Bray
- School of Pharmacy: Wayne Brown
- School of Biological Sciences/General Education Task Force: Lynda Plamann
- Conservatory of Music and Dance: Melita Belgrave
- School of Education: Monika Shealey
- School of Computing and Engineering: Mark McClernon
- School of Law: Julie Cheslik
- School of Medicine: Stefanie Ellison (George Harris will attend when Ellison cannot)
- School of Nursing: Kara Flowers
- Faculty Senate: Gerald Wyckoff, Kenneth Scott Baker, Leah Stanley
- General Education Task Force: Wayne Vaught