

August 29, 2011

Colleagues:

This fall, the Undergraduate Curriculum Council (UCC) is moving toward completion of Phase II of the General Education Requirements Revision as discussed at <http://www.isu.edu/gened> #D “Courses that satisfy General Education Requirements and discussion. This entails moving toward the Revised Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes, as discussed at #C “Revised Objectives and Outcomes for General Education Literacy. Please note that these documents have been accessible through the website since March 2011. An email was sent out during the spring semester addressing these changes.

Please review the following questions and answers to the Revised General Education Requirements at Idaho State University.

1. When will these requirements go into effect?
 - a. 2013-2014 is our target.
2. What does this mean for advising?
 - a. Students currently enrolled at ISU, and those enrolled through summer 2013, can choose to satisfy the existing Goals for their undergraduate degree. Students enrolling in the fall of 2013 will be required to meet the revised Gen Eds.
3. What does this mean for our degree programs?
 - a. The revised Gen Eds are MINIMUM requirements for obtaining a baccalaureate degree at ISU. It is the belief of the Curriculum Council that these will offer considerable latitude for Colleges and Department as they evaluate their Programs.
4. Why do we have to evaluate our Programs?
 - a. The State Board of Education is requiring that all degree granting programs review their degree requirements in consideration of the minimum requirement of 120 total credits. Degree requirements should be consistent with those of each College’s and Department’s peer institutions.
5. Can we customize the Gen Ed Requirements for our degrees?
 - a. Yes. The overall goal in the revision of Gen Eds was to provide students with an experience to develop lifelong learning. Programs with highly constrained curriculums, such as the many professional oriented programs at ISU, can require ‘double dipping’ (see this discussion under the Academic Tab of Bengal Web). Degree programs with more extensive latitude within their degree requirements can require Gen Eds across a wider range of options than that prescribed by the State Board of Education and the revised Gen Eds.
6. What is this comment about assessment?
 - a. The Northwest Accreditation Commission is requiring all courses that satisfy General Education Objectives to have formal assessment of their individual Student Learning Outcomes. Because we are both offering Colleges and Departments the opportunity to expand their Gen Ed offerings as well as maintain those that satisfied goals, The UCC is reviewing in the fall term NEW courses to satisfy Gen Ed Objectives. Each submission

for a NEW Gen Ed must be accompanied by how the Student Learning Outcomes for the Objective satisfied will be met.

7. What about existing Gen Eds, the Goals courses?
 - a. All courses satisfying Goals have been 'GrandParented' in to the revised Gen Eds. These courses will need to provide their corresponding Student Learning Outcomes in the spring of 2012.
8. Who will be doing this evaluation?
 - a. A General Education Requirements Committee has been supervised by the Curriculum Council for many years. The bylaws of this Committee are being redrafted. This committee will be charged with evaluating all proposed NEW Gen Eds, as well as the assessment of Student Learning Outcomes for ALL Gen Eds. It is the preference of the UCC that this committee be comprised of individuals from the Colleges who have experience in assessment within their respective Colleges or Division. In keeping with the principles of Faculty Governance, members of this Committee will be ELECTED.
9. Why has this taken so long?
 - a. As noted in the above referenced site, this process began during the early 2000s, and has been evolving since the 2008-2009 Academic Year. This systemic task had not been undertaken since the late 1970s, early 1980s, prior to President Bowen and President Vailas. As the UCC was deliberating these revisions in the spring, we realized that a broader set of catalog issues would be impacted by these changes. With the turmoil on campus this past spring, additional discussions and final approval of the revised Gen Eds was deferred until this fall.
10. Who will make these catalog decisions?
 - a. The UCC is the deciding Faculty Governance Control unit in place for the undergraduate curriculum. This committee, in keeping with the principles of Faculty Governance, is ELECTED.