

Memorandum of Understanding on Conventions for Review and Approval of General Education Courses

Proposed for October 6, 2025 Faculty Senate Meeting

According to the GE Curriculum policy, as amended in spring 2025, “The Office of General Education administers the University of Arizona's General Education Curriculum, **in consultation with the University-Wide General Education Committee, which approves all courses that satisfy General Education requirements.**” Thus, any changes to the faculty-facing conventions that are used in the review and approval of General Education courses proposed by faculty and academic units across campus should only be implemented after faculty shared governance review at the University-Wide General Education Committee (UWGEC). This consultation at the UWGEC level alone has previously already included course review criteria such as learning outcomes and other elements required for course approval, and the specific expectations for each of the Attributes. Going forward, this would also include the basic names and descriptions of the Attributes that are attached to General Education courses, now that they are no longer required to be tracked by students and are therefore being moved out of the student-facing policy language.

The UWGEC Chair should promptly report out all such faculty-facing changes, which will be used in the course review process, to the Undergraduate Council (UGC) and the Faculty Senate at their next meetings, in order to fulfill UWGEC's constitutionally defined roles of “approval of all curriculum changes in general education across the University” and “disseminating General Education information to the campus community.” This reporting process will thereby allow for UGC and Faculty Senate members to raise any concerns or questions they may have about any of these faculty-facing changes. Since these course review conventions would not be in official policy language that appears in the student-facing catalog as graduation requirements, they do not have to go through the regular lengthy policy review process and could instead be amended nimbly and flexibly in response to ongoing input.

As before, any “curriculum action item” that would change the student-facing policy that is published in the catalog and required for all students to complete the General Education curriculum, would still need to go through the full lengthy policy revision process, originating at UWGEC, proceeding through UGC, U-CAAC, Faculty Senate, and Provost.