

Frequently Asked Questions about the new General Education Program and Degree Types

Degree Types (BA, BS, BFA, BM)

- Do I need to do a separate form for UCC indicating the differences between the old major and the new one FOR EACH DEGREE TYPE?
--Yes. The BA in history needs to look different and require different things that the BS in history in order to reflect the criteria adopted for the degree type.
- Do I need to include the specific course or courses that will satisfy the Communication in the Major and Capstone in the Major requirements?
--Yes. These are new requirements, so make sure you underscore them in the forms. Do not do any abbreviation or designation in the copy (like CM for Communication in the Major). Just write out the course number and title for each requirement.

Getting those GEP designations

- Once I do the UCC forms, am I done?
--No. No course is a General Education course unless it is approved by the General Education Committee and Faculty Senate. Once you designate the courses for Communication and Capstone in the Major for the UCC, you need to submit the appropriate form to the GEC.
- How do I do that?
--GEC does NOT have the same submission policies at UCC. Email your forms as an attachment to the GEC chair, Mary Bowman (mbowman@uwsp.edu) and she will notify you when the proposal will be on the committee's agenda (with date, time and place). GEC does NOT require paper submissions, but uses MyFacultySenate for its work.
- What do I need to submit with the form?
--The GEC does not need pages of supporting information. It needs the questions about Learning Outcomes and how they align with the syllabus and course content on the form to be fully answered. The questions about assessment of the learning outcomes also should be addressed. Beyond a supporting syllabus, there is no need for addendum items.
- Does someone need to attend the GEC meeting?
--PLEASE have the chair of the department and instructors of the courses (if possible) at the meeting to answer questions about how the courses satisfy the learning outcomes required for the GE category. If there is no representative to answer any questions, items might be tabled to a later meeting.
- What happens when I have done BOTH sets of committee requirements?
--As per a policy adopted in Spring 2012, all paperwork will be held until a department completes BOTH committees and only THEN will be placed on the Faculty Senate agenda for approval. So, your job is not done if

forms are approved in GEC, but new courses have not gotten formally adopted in UCC. You will be notified when your department's materials will be part of both agenda from the UCC and GEC to the Faculty Senate for action.

- ***Wait, go back. What are these Learning Outcomes I have to address?***

--Learning Outcomes are the knowledge, skills, and dispositions the GEP curriculum delivers to students. They are specific to each requirement of the GEP and are spelled out in the document, "GEP Category Learning Outcomes." The GEC looks at course proposals for

- Are learning outcomes, not course content, emphasized
- Are these aligned with assignments and activities (syllabi help, but the committee wants the question on the form to be answered)
- Is assessment of these learning outcomes explained

--For example: in Communications in the Majors courses, please explain if a course ONLY emphasizes written communication which "applies discipline specific standards...is organized...property document and supported [with] ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose and audience," and ANOTHER requires an oral presentation with the same requirements, thus EACH satisfies one of the required learning outcomes. Or, does a course require both a paper and a presentation. How will students "critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations... and provide feedback?"

I need to get specifics, now

- Does each course need to show both written and oral communication skills?
--No, but each major requires 6 credits of Communications in the Major. If a department proposals choices for students, make sure that the students takes courses that will do BOTH communications skills.
- I'm WE certified. I am okay to teach Communications in the Major classes?
--Yes. We are going to start up a similar training for facilitating oral communication and would ask all WE faculty to attend one session on that. All new faculty will need to do training in both areas. Departments will be responsible for making sure faculty receive whatever training sessions they need.
- Can the Communications in the Major class also be a Capstone in the Major class?
--Yes, one course can satisfy both requirements.