March 7, 2025

GENERAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE

on Zoom

UCLA Undergraduate Education Initiatives

03.

REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY TOWN HALL SLIDES

Activity & Discussion

UCLA Undergraduate Education Initiatives

Agenda for Preliminary Town Hall Slides

1. Introduction & Background
2. Overall Process of GE Redesign
3. Rationale for Redesign
4. Sketch of Updated GE
5. Q&A and Audience Feedback

UCLA Undergraduate Education Initiatives

Introduction & Background

2020-2021 Consolidated Self-Review of all components of GE (Foundation Areas and Clusters)

Self-Review Report Overall Recommendation

"With the goal of preparing UCLA graduates to address the challenges faced by society in the 21st century, design and implement a new model for General Education at UCLA. This model should build on existing strengths but should incorporate substantial changes to governance, program structure, and mission. The process to achieve this goal should begin with the formation of a GE Taskforce by Fall 2023"

Recognize UCLA, UC-wide, and national context for reimagining GE

- **UCLA:**
  - The current GE program is nearly two decades old
  - Concern over mission statement clarity and relevance
  - Lack of clear pathways through GE programming & lack of access to GE courses
  - Lack of coherent experience for students
- **UC-wide:** Importance of moving to a more equitabe GE program
- **National:** Review of GE models across the country

Models for General Education

from the Consolidated Self-Review Report

- Review of 22 universities uncovered 2 main models for General Education

DISTRIBUTIVE MODEL

- Students take a specific number of courses from prescribed categories
- Categories can be mix of traditional areas of knowledge (e.g. Humanities, Life Sciences, etc.) & intellectual skills (e.g. writing, critical thinking, etc.)

INTEGRATIVE MODEL

- Favors thematic categories over traditional areas of knowledge
- Favors integrative learning experiences (e.g. interdisciplinary & team-taught courses)
- Emphasizes flexibility (e.g. multiple pathways to fulfill requirements)

Increasing shift towards Integrative Models in the last decade ↗

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GE at Peer & UC Institutions

Boston University

The Hub

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

IDEAS in Action

University of Virginia

Engagements
Literacies
Disciplines

Current UCLA GE Model

Please note that courses designated with GE status in each foundation area apply across the Schools, but the required number of courses varies by School.

FOUNDATIONS OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

- Literary Cultural Analysis
- Philosophical Linguistic Analysis
- Visual and Performance Arts and Analysis

FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIETY & CULTURE

- Social Analysis
- Historical Analysis

FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

- Life Science
- Physical Science
- Lab credit

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Arts & Humanities

Society and Culture

Scientific Inquiry

Sketch of GE Update: Capacities

Responses to prompt question: What should every UCLA graduate gain from their undergraduate academic experience?

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- Critical thinking
- Life skills/Psychological well-being
- Interdisciplinary & curious thinking
- Writing
- Oral communication

AFFECTIVE CAPABILITIES

- Empathy for others
- Social & global awareness
- Intellectual risk-taking
- Inspiration & confidence to make change
- Sense of curiosity

CONSTRUCTION OF INTER/DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE

- Interdisciplinary thinking & knowing
- Recognize contours of field through metacognition
- Understand how disciplines contribute to solving global problems

Sketch of GE Update: Guiding Principles

What should every UCLA graduate gain from their undergraduate academic experience?

Courses in the GE curriculum will:

1. Model and encourage a sense of empathy, curiosity, and intellectual risk-taking
2. Encourage social, global, and moral awareness through exposure to diverse cultures and ideas
3. Orient students to interdisciplinary approaches and critical thinking
4. Introduce students to scientific methodology with an emphasis on the skills required for data literacy
5. Equip students with skills necessary for success at the university and in their professional lives, including writing, oral communication, and collaboration
6. Ensure students understand how to navigate the university to fulfill their desired path

Sketch of GE Update: Created Preliminary Capacities for GE Curriculum

Place the following intellectual / affective skills and capacities up to 6 capacious categories.

- Critical Thinking
- Life Skills / Psychological Well Being
- Interdisciplinary & Curious Thinking
- Writing
- Oral Communication
- Quantitative Reasoning / Data Literacy
- Information & Media Literacy
- Empathy for others' views / experiences
- Social & Global Awareness
- Intellectual Risk-taking
- Sense of curiosity
- Inspiration and confidence to make change
- Engage in inter/disciplinary ways of thinking, ways of knowing
- Comprehend how disciplines contribute to solving global problems
- Navigate the university with efficacy / intentionality
- Liberal education as career preparation

Sketch of GE Update – GE Categories

1. **Critical Thinking:**
   - Problem solving, making connections, developing a sense of curiosity, academic risk-taking, interdisciplinary thinking
2. **Adaptive Learning & Academic Navigation**:
   - Metacognition, learning how to learn, leveraging university resources, psychological well-being, adjusting to new environments, learning with others, self-awareness
3. **Communication & Expression**:
   - Writing, readings, speaking/oral communication, collaboration, respectful debate, media literacy, historical literacy
4. **Data & Quantitative Literacy**:
   - Data interpretation, quantitative reasoning, computational thinking, confidence in data-driven decision-making, scientific literacy, computer literacy
5. **Engaged Citizenship & World Readiness**:
   - Cross-cultural communication, dialogue facilitation, social and global awareness, intellectual humility, learning across political and cultural differences, global citizenship, empathy for others

Sketch of GE Update – GE Categories

1. **Critical Thinking**: The ability to analyze, question, and approach problems from multiple perspectives, fostering curiosity, and interdisciplinary connections.
2. **Adaptive Learning & Academic Navigation**: Learning to effectively navigate challenges and understand how to make the most out of academic opportunities.
3. **Communication & Expression**: The skills needed to share ideas clearly and engage in meaningful discourse across different mediums.
4. **Data & Quantitative Literacy**: Learn the importance of interpreting, analyzing, and communicating numerical and data-driven information.
5. **Engaged Citizenship & World Readiness**: Understand how to engage with diverse perspectives, cultures, and social issues in a thoughtful and informed way.

Sketch of GE Update – GE Dimensions of Categories

1. **Critical Thinking:**
   - *Definition:* The ability to analyze, question, and approach problems from multiple perspectives, fostering curiosity, and interdisciplinary connections.
     - Transferable Skills: Problem-solving, making connections, asking questions
     - Affective Capabilities: Sense of curiosity, intellectual risk-taking
     - Inter/Disciplinary Knowledge: Approaching interdisciplinary questions
2. **Adaptive Learning & Academic Navigation**:
   - *Definition:* Learning to effectively navigate challenges and understand how to make the most out of academic opportunities.
     - Transferable Skills: Metcognition, learning how to learn, leveraging university resources
     - Affective Capabilities: Psychological well-being, adjusting to new environments, self-awareness
     - Inter/Disciplinary Knowledge: Learning with others, university navigation
3. **Communication & Expression**:
   - *Definition*: The skills needed to share ideas clearly and engage in meaningful discourse across different mediums.
     - Transferable Skills: Writing, reading, speaking/oral communication, collaboration
     - Affective Capabilities: Respectful debate, empathy for others
     - Inter/Disciplinary Knowledge: Media & historical literacy

Sketch of GE Update – GE Dimensions of Categories

4. **Data & Quantitative Literacy**
    - *Definition: Learn the importance of interpreting, analyzing, and communicating numerical and data-driven information.*
        - Transferable Skills: Data interpretation, quantitative reasoning, computational thinking
        - Affective Capabilities: Precision in argument, confidence in data-driven decision-making
        - Inter/Disciplinary Knowledge: Scientific literacy, quantitative literacy, computer literacy
5. **Engaged Citizenship & World Readiness:**
    - *Definition: Understand how to engage with diverse perspectives, cultures, and social issues in a thoughtful and informed way.*
        - Transferable Skills: Cross cultural communication, dialogue facilitation
        - Affective Capabilities: Social & global awareness, empathy, intellectual humility
        - Inter/Disciplinary Knowledge: Learning across political and cultural differences, global citizenship