

Proposition: 21-11/12

Title: **Proposed Revisions to General Education Coursework Policy 6.65**

Sponsors: Stuart H. Munson-McGee (ACES) and Tim Ketelaar (A&S)

**Proposed
Committee
Assignment:**

**Assigned
Committee:** **Scholastic Affairs, 4/17**

Proposal: This proposition presents revisions to the current General Education Coursework Required for Graduation Policy (Policy 6.65 of the NMSU Policy Manual). The rationale for these proposed changes is given below. The proposed policy is shown in Attachment 1 and the current policy (with major changes highlighted in red font) is shown in Attachment II.

Rationale: This policy was updated to reformat the provisions describing the General Education Certification Committee consistent with revised Policy 1.05.90; and to relocate detailed procedural material into a set of distinct procedural guidelines for the approval of courses to be certified or recertified as a General Education course. These guidelines will be issued by the Office of the EVP/Provost and will be linked from the policy. Additionally, the revisions eliminate the potential for appeal to the Faculty Senate's Committee on Committees, as it pertains to implementation of the policy; as well as the provision describing how the policy may be amended. These changes arise from the recommendations made by a group of faculty and administrators working in conjunction with Dr. Greg Fant, Associate Vice President and Deputy Provost.

ATTACHMENT I: Proposed Revised Policy

6.65 **General Education Coursework Required for Graduation** [*Amendment (FS Proposition No. 13-05/06) passed by Faculty Senate 03.02.06, signed by president 03.29.06; ratified by Board of Regents 09.08.06*] [*Amendments (FS Propositions 25-07/08, 26-07/08 and 27-07/08) passed by Faculty Senate 05.01.08, signed by president 06.13.08; ratified by Board of Regents 07.15.08*]

1. General Education Policy Statement: The General Education curriculum required for graduation from New Mexico State University is comprised of the state's common core and the university's Viewing a Wider World courses. See the [NMSU Undergraduate Catalog](#) for specific category requirements, options and required credits that will fulfill both state and university requirements.
 1. **Common Core**: The New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) mandates a lower-division general education common core curriculum. These are accepted in total as a block by all accredited, public post-secondary institutions within the state of New Mexico. *See* NMSA 1978 §§ 21-1B-1 et seq.
 2. **Viewing a Wider World**: In addition to the state's requirements, NMSU has adopted Viewing a Wider World courses (VWW) as part of its General Education curriculum required of all undergraduate students. *See* NMSA 1978 §21-1B-4 (B). These courses foster intelligent inquiry, abstract logical thinking, critical analysis and the integration/synthesis of knowledge beyond the student's major discipline.
- B. General Education Course Certification Committee: The Board of Regents recognizes and delegates review and certification for the general education courses to the advisory body known as the General Education Course Certification Committee, which reports to the university's chief academic officer, the Executive Vice President and Provost, as follows:
 1. **Role and Purpose**: The General Education Course Certification Committee is recognized as a standing university board within the definition of Policy 1.05.90. It serves as an advisory body to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. Its primary charge is to review the courses submitted for inclusion in the General Education curriculum in light of the applicable state or university criteria, and to provide its recommendations to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. The committee also develops or reviews proposed procedural guidelines for the General Education course certification process, for consideration by the Office of the Vice President and Provost.
 2. **Composition**: The General Education Course Certification Committee shall be comprised of one faculty member and one alternate faculty member from each academic college and the library, to be selected by the appropriate dean; two community college faculty members and one alternate community college faculty member, to be selected by majority vote of the community college chief academic officers; and one member and one alternate member from the Faculty Senate. A representative from the Registrar's office and from the Outcomes Assessment office shall also serve on the committee in an *ex-officio* capacity.

3. **Reporting Structure:** The committee reports directly to the Executive Vice President and Provost, who will appoint a representative from the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost to serve as chair. The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost shall provide the committee with necessary administrative support.
4. **Meetings:** The committee shall meet a minimum of one time per semester. The chair or the Executive Vice President and Provost may call additional meetings as often as necessary for the committee to perform its charge.

C. General Education Certification:

1. The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, after consideration of the recommendation from the General Education Course Certification Committee, will establish and publish procedural guidelines pertaining to the review of courses proposed for inclusion in the General Education curriculum.
2. Any NMSU-Las Cruces college or department may propose to create or modify a course for inclusion in the General Education curriculum.
3. Courses that are part of the state common core are subject to the regulations of the New Mexico Higher Education Department. The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost is responsible for compliance with these regulations.
4. Viewing a Wider World courses proposed by the various colleges and departments will be certified or re-certified in accordance with the [General Education Course Certification Procedural Guidelines](#) issued by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.
5. Upon receipt of notice of certification, the sponsoring department will process the appropriate course action forms to initiate the process for the course to be officially offered, and published in the appropriate catalog(s).

ATTACHMENT II: Current Policy

Although the policy has been significantly rewritten and reorganized, the red-lined version below attempts to indicate the major points that have changed or been deleted. Additions and clarifications of the policy are given in the revised policy shown in Attachment I.

6.65 **General Education Courses** [Amendment (FS Proposition No. 13-05/06) passed by Faculty Senate 03.02.06, signed by president 03.29.06; ratified by Board of Regents 09.08.06] [Amendments (FS Propositions 25-07/08, 26-07/08 and 27-07/08) passed by Faculty Senate 05.01.08, signed by president 06.13.08; ratified by Board of Regents 07.15.08]

A. Common Core Defined by the Higher Education Department:

~~The New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) mandates a lower division general education common core curriculum which will be transferable between all universities within the state of New Mexico. Additionally New Mexico State university may require other courses for the student to complete (lower and upper division credits) before graduating. See the Undergraduate Catalog for specific category requirements, options and required credits that will fulfill the HED common core as well as NMSU requirements.~~

B. New Mexico State University Policies and Procedures:

1. General Education, Generally: General education at NMSU attempts to foster intelligent inquiry, abstract logical thinking, critical analysis and the integration and synthesis of knowledge; ~~it strives for literacy in writing, reading, speaking, and listening; it teaches mathematical structures, acquainting students with precise abstract thought about numbers and space; it encourages an understanding of science and scientific inquiry; it provides a historical consciousness, including an understanding of one's own heritage as well as respect for other peoples and cultures; it includes an examination of values and stresses the importance of a carefully considered values system; it fosters an appreciation of the arts; and general education provides the breadth necessary to have a familiarity with the various branches of human understanding.~~
2. Viewing a Wider World Graduation Requirement: The Viewing a Wider World requirements for graduation are listed in the undergraduate catalog. The criteria and guidelines for Viewing a Wider World courses are posted on the General Education Website at [NMSU: General Education Committee](#).
3. Role of the General Education Course Certification Committee:
 - a. Composition and Purpose: A permanent standing committee, the General Education Course Certification Committee, comprised of one member of the library staff and two faculty members (one as alternate) from each college (each selected by the deans of the colleges ~~in consultation with the executive vice president and provost~~), and one nonvoting member from the Committee on Committees (elected by the Committee on Committees) will be charged with certifying that a course meets the criteria for a general education course.
 - b. ~~EVP/Provost is Chair:~~ The General Education Course Certification Committee will report directly to the executive vice president and provost, ~~who will serve as chair.~~
 - c. ~~Recertification of Courses:~~ ~~Recertification of courses will be required every 4 years, following an initial probationary period of one year. During the first and every fourth year, the General Education Course Certification Committee will receive a narrative summary and other relevant information from the faculty member in charge or the department head of the general education course describing the content and assessing the effectiveness of the course in meeting the desired ends of the course. The General~~

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~~Education Course Certification Committee may also meet with the faculty member during the recertification process.~~

- d. ~~Annual Receipt of Course Records: — Annually the General Education Course Certification Committee will be supplied with the course records (enrollment, number of sections offered, student evaluations of the general education content of the course, and grade distributions) for each general education course.~~

4. Offering/Instructing a General Education Course:

- a. Any college or department may offer a general education course, provided it meets the criteria and is certified by the permanent standing General Education Course Certification Committee.
- b. ~~Similarly, any faculty member (or team of faculty members) may teach a general education course.~~
- c. ~~The Committee on Committees is charged with reviewing implementation of any legislation adopted by the Faculty Senate; therefore, any faculty member or administrator who wishes to appeal a decision of the General Education Course Certification Committee as it applies to the interpretation of the general education policy statement can do so to the Faculty Senate's Committee on Committees.~~
- d. ~~Decisions made by the General Education Course Certification Committee on individual course proposals are not appealable.~~
- e. ~~Since the Faculty Senate has legislative jurisdiction over policies affecting the academic mission of the university, changes in the general education policies can be made through the normal legislative procedures of the Faculty Senate.~~