

GEAR Discussion Items  
Two Draft Resolutions  
University Senate Meeting, 12/6/16

**Resolution on  
General Education All-University Requirement Resolution  
for Über Student Learning Outcome**

AY-16/17-Chris Harmon, Chair, General Education All-University Requirement

**WHEREAS:** General Education All-University Requirement outcomes are too numerous (currently 39 in total) to allow for meaningful ongoing assessment.

**WHEREAS:** The General and All-University Requirements (GEAR) committee was formed in order to provide a forum in which General Education (GE) assessment, planning, and general oversight could be discussed and managed in a consistent manner. The primary task of the committee included the clarification and revision of the HSU's GE student learning outcomes (SLO) and the assessment of student learning.

**WHEREAS:** Committee members strived to streamline the SLOs so faculty and students could universally apply them to a broad array of discipline specific content.<sup>1,2</sup> The committee also sought to identify a central component of student learning that all GE courses could support and enhance.

**WHEREAS:** A companion proposal outlines area-specific SLOs that simultaneously satisfy Executive Orders (EO) 1061 & 1100.

**RESOLVED:** Approval of an overarching GE Program "Über" SLO, as presented below and applied to the GE program in satisfaction of EO 1061 & 1100 in addition to the unique Diversity and Common Ground (DCG) requirements at HSU.

<sup>1</sup>EO 1061: Graduation Requirements in United States History, Constitution and American Ideals

<sup>2</sup>EO 1100: General Education Breadth Requirements

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**Proposed GE Program Über SLO**

The General Education Program at Humboldt State University is designed, in concert with the major, to ensure that all graduates have attained the knowledge, skills, experiences, and perspectives necessary to achieve the HSU Baccalaureate Student Outcomes.

Upon completion of the General Education Program students will be able to:

- Communicate effectively through oral, written, and quantitative methods.
- Demonstrate the ability to locate, assess, and employ information relevant to the discipline, approach, or method.
- Demonstrate depth of knowledge of United States history and politics.

They will apply these skills to:

- Critically evaluate information through methods of thoughtful inquiry.

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- Analyze and consider diverse, multicultural, and interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Apply knowledge to principled action and professionalism across disciplines.

The diversity of thought fostered by the GE Program enhances the knowledge and abilities developed within the major program to assure graduates have made noteworthy progress towards becoming truly educated persons.

**RESOLVED:** A charge be given to the GEAR committee regarding the development of detailed assessment plans, crafted in collaboration with key GE faculty and members of ICC.

**RESOLVED:** This GE reform and adoption of an overarching GE SLO would transpire without forcing current GE courses to go through a re-certification process through the ICC, which is in accordance with the Strategic Plan on better coordination and integration of academics.

**RATIONALE:** The purpose of the proposed GE Program Über SLO is to facilitate assessment of GE as a program at the university level. The content of the area-specific SLO would not be assessed at the university level as the GEAR committee recommends assessment of this content at the department level or instructor level. The GE Program Über SLO can be broken into three main components where assessment is concerned. The first component essentially comprises the core competencies, which have not been numbered to avoid prioritization. These can easily be assessed using the American Association of Colleges and Universities Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (AACU VALUE) rubrics or some variant form thereof. The second component is related to the American Institutions requirements, which is not as easily assessed by the AACU VALUE rubrics. Last, the third component is the applications of skill within GE, which are not as easily assessed by the AACU VALUE rubrics and will require customized HSU rubrics to fully encapsulate the HSU experience, including the DCG requirement. Each of these components will be addressed in detail upon approval of this resolution in full collaboration with the ICC and invested faculty members.

**Resolution on General Education All-University Requirement Proposal  
for Area Specific SLOs'**

AY-16/17-Chris Harmon, Chair, General Education All-University Requirement

**WHEREAS:** A companion proposal outlines an overarching GE Program “Über” SLO that simultaneously satisfies Executive Orders (EO) 1061<sup>1</sup> & 1100<sup>2</sup> in addition to the unique Diversity and Common Ground (DCG) requirements at HSU.

**RESOLVED:** In addition to the overarching GE SLO and its accompanying assessment plan, area-specific SLOs are proposed as described by EO 1061 & 1100, where language for development of Freshman Year Experiences (FYE) in Area E is included.

<sup>1</sup>EO 1061: Graduation Requirements in United States History, Constitution and American Ideals

<sup>2</sup>EO 1100: General Education Breadth Requirements

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**Proposed Area Specific SLO**

The following area specific SLOs are taken from EO 1061 & 1100, where descriptions developed from the EO are included to define each GE area.

**Area A-English Language Communication and Critical Thinking**

Minimum 9 semester units (one course in each subarea)

**A1: Oral Communication** (3 semester units)

**A2: Written Communication** (3 semester units)

**A3: Critical Thinking** (3 semester units)

Students taking courses in fulfillment of sub-areas A1 and A2 will be able to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the form, content, context, and effectiveness of communication.
- Develop proficiency in oral and written communication in English, examining communication from rhetorical perspectives, and practicing reasoning and advocacy, organization, and accuracy.
- Practice the discovery, critical evaluation, and reporting of information, as well as reading, writing, and listening effectively.
- Actively participate and practice both written communication and oral communication in English.

Students taking courses in fulfillment of subarea A3 will be able to:

- Understand logic and its relation to language; elementary inductive and deductive processes, including an understanding of the formal and informal

fallacies of language and thought; and the ability to distinguish matters of fact from issues of judgment or opinion.

- Develop the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas; to reason inductively and deductively; and to reach well-supported factual or judgmental conclusions.

### **Area B-Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning**

Minimum of 12 semester units (3 must be at the upper division level\*)

One course each in subareas B1, B2, and B4, plus laboratory activity related to one of the completed science courses.

**B1: Physical Science** (3 semester units)

**B2: Life Science** (3 semester units)

**B3: Laboratory Activity** (associated with a course taken to satisfy either B1 or B2)

**B4: Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning** (3 semester units)

Students taking courses in fulfillment of subarea B1-B3 will be able to:

- Develop knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data about both living and non-living systems.
- Apply and evaluate scientific principles and the scientific method.
- Apply and evaluate the potential limits of scientific endeavors and the value and ethics associated with the human conditions and the natural world.

Students taking courses in fulfillment of subarea B4 will be able to:

- Explain and apply basic mathematical concepts and solve problems through quantitative reasoning.
- Develop skills and understanding beyond the level of intermediate algebra.

\* The following majors have Upper Division Area B requirements incorporated into the major requirements: Biochemistry and Chemistry, Fisheries Biology, Kinesiology, Oceanography, Physics and Physics Astronomy (BS options only)

### **Area C-Arts and Humanities**

Minimum of 12 semester units (3 must be at the upper division level)

At least one course completed in each of these two subareas:

**C1 Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater**

**C2 Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English**

Coursework that exclusively emphasize skills development are excluded from Area C; however, activities may include participation in individual aesthetic and creative experiences.

Students taking courses in fulfillment of Area C will be able to:

- Cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility, and sensitivity.
- Respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences.
- Develop an understanding of the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses.
- Cultivate and refine their affective, cognitive, and physical faculties through studying great works of the human imagination.
- Develop a better understanding of the interrelationship between the self and the creative arts and of the humanities in a variety of cultures.

**Area D-Social Sciences**

Minimum of 12 semester units (3 must be a the upper division level)

Courses that emphasize skills development and professional preparation are excluded from Area D. Coursework taken in fulfillment of this requirement must be taught from more than one disciplinary perspective dealing with human social, political, and economic institutions and behavior and their historical background. Students learn from courses in multiple Area D disciplines that human social, political and economic institutions and behavior are inextricably interwoven.

Students taking courses in fulfillment of Area D will be able to:

- Analyze social phenomena from multiple disciplinary perspectives.
- Analyze social phenomena considering contemporary, historical and cultural contexts.
- Apply the principles, methodologies, and ethics employed in social scientific and historical inquiry.

**Area E Lifelong Learning and Self-Development**

Minimum 3 semester units

Courses in Area E may follow a Freshman Year Experience (FYE) design to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings.

Students taking courses in fulfillment of Area E will:

- Explain and demonstrate an understanding of the nature of being human as an integration of physiological, psychological, and sociocultural influences.
- Demonstrate a preparation for the lifelong and complex process of self-understanding, self-analysis, and self-development as an individual among others.

### **American Institutions**

Minimum of 6 semester units

At least one course completed in each of these two subareas:

#### **United States History**

##### **U.S. & California Government**

Students taking courses in fulfillment of U.S. History will be able to:

- Explain significant events covering a time span of at least 100 years of U.S. history, including the relationships of U.S. regions and relationships with foreign nations.
- Analyze the role of major ethnic and social groups in the significant events above, and the contexts in which those events have occurred.
- Explain how these events illustrate both the continuity of “the American experience” and its derivation from other cultures by considering at least three of the following: politics, economics, social movements, and geography.

Students taking courses in fulfillment of U.S. & California Government will be able to:

- Distinguish the key philosophies of the framers of the U.S. Constitution.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and operation of major U.S. political institutions and processes.
- Identify the liberties, rights, and responsibilities of citizens under the political system established by the US Constitution.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the California Constitution and state and local government within the framework of evolving federal-state relations.

### **Diversity & Common Ground (DCG)**

Minimum of 6 semester units

At least one course must be designated domestic DCG.

Students taking courses in fulfillment of DCG will be able to:

- Analyze the complexity of diversity through the perspective of differential power and privilege, identity politics, and/or multicultural studies.