General Education at UTK
Today and Tomorrow
February 26, 2019
General Education Task Force

Appointed in 2015 to review the General Education curriculum and recommend changes. 14 members, 5 colleges.

Our current General Education curriculum is very similar to the original General Education curriculum approved in 2004.

Goals for a new General Education curriculum:

Support Experience Learning and Ready for the World
Connect the curriculum to “solving big problems”
Encourage engagement and education across disciplinary lines
General Education Task Force

Initial fact-finding phase:

- Faculty and student focus groups and surveys
- Meetings with departments and colleges
- Day-long, campus-wide General Education Town Hall

Faculty survey results: 390+ faculty respondents

- 130+ (38%) had taught a General Education course
- 32% could not identify the General Education learning objectives supported by the course
- 55% said that the General Education nature of the course did not affect course design or delivery
**UTK General Education (today)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FYC</th>
<th>WC</th>
<th>OC</th>
<th>QR</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>AH</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FYC** = first-year composition (sequence)
**WC** = discipline-focused writing (can be in the major)
**OC** = oral communication (can be in the major)
**QR** = quantitative reasoning
**AH** = arts & humanities
**NS** = natural sciences (at least one course must have a lab component **L**)
**SS** = social sciences
**CC** = cultures & civilizations: Non-U.S. history (**NUH**) or culture (**C**) courses or intermediate-level foreign language (**FL**)

Either/or

**NUH**

**FL**
Volunteer Core (Fall 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FYC</th>
<th>WC</th>
<th>OC</th>
<th>AOC</th>
<th>QR</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>AH</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>GC</th>
<th>AAH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
<td>IN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus 6 more hours of Volunteer Core electives drawn from these areas

- **AOC** = applied oral communication (can be in the major)
- **GC** = global citizenship (US and international subcategories)
- **AAH** = applied arts & humanities: creative work courses

Plus 9 hours of Engaged Inquiries course work (can double count many ways)
Volunteer Core (Fall 2021)

- Effective Communication
- Engaged Inquiries
- Expanded Perspectives
## Volunteer Core (Fall 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FYC</th>
<th>WC</th>
<th>OC</th>
<th>AOC</th>
<th>QR</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>AH</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>GC</th>
<th>AAH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Effective Communication

Plus 6 more hours of Volunteer Core electives drawn from these areas

### Notes

**AOC** = applied oral communication (can be in the major)

**GC** = global citizenship (US and international subcategories)

**AAH** = applied arts & humanities: creative work courses

Plus 9 hours of Engaged Inquiries course work (can double count many ways)
Volunteer Core (Fall 2021)

**AOC** = applied oral communication (can be in the major)

**GC** = global citizenship (US and international subcategories)

**AAH** = applied arts & humanities: creative work courses

Plus 9 hours of Engaged Inquiries course work (can double count many ways)
### Volunteer Core (Fall 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FYC</th>
<th>WC</th>
<th>OC</th>
<th>AOC</th>
<th>QR</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>AH</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>GC</th>
<th>AAH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **AOC** = applied oral communication (can be in the major)
- **GC** = global citizenship (US and international subcategories)
- **AAH** = applied arts & humanities: creative work courses

#### Engaged Inquiries

- Plus 6 more hours of Volunteer Core electives drawn from these areas

---

Plus **9 hours of Engaged Inquiries** course work (can double count many ways)
Support for applied learning

Applied Oral Communications:

Emphasizes importance of effective oral communication strategies within a discipline or profession

Applied Arts & Humanities:

Recognizes educational value of hands-on creative work (creative writing; visual, plastic, and musical arts; theatrical performances)
Recognition that disciplinary boundaries are permeable

Current curriculum:

Cultures & Civilizations courses cannot meet Arts & Humanities or Social Sciences requirements.

Volunteer Core curriculum:

A single course can deliver learning outcomes associated with multiple Expanded Perspectives categories – but a student can only apply a course to a single category.

Example: A course can satisfy either Global Citizenship International or Social Sciences requirements, but not both simultaneously.
Connection to Experience Learning

Engaged Inquiries courses:

Require students to engage in two of four learning modalities:

- Applied Learning
- Collaborative Learning
- Reflective Learning
- Integrative/Multidisciplinary Learning

Require students to produce an investigative, creative, or practical work relevant to the course topic.

Students must complete nine credit hours from at least two different subject codes (ANSC, ARCH, BAS, BIOL, CFS, CMST, ECON, ENGL, etc.)
Implementation Calendar

Spring 2019: Begin accepting new course proposals for Volunteer Core

October 15, 2019: Last date that courses can be submitted for inclusion in the current General Education curriculum

December 2019: Target date for course proposals for Volunteer Core

April 1, 2020: Deadline for current General Education courses to be submitted for inclusion in Volunteer Core

AY 2019-2020: Departments, schools, colleges update their major curricula and uTrack showcases to include Volunteer Core requirements

December 1, 2020: Deadline for major curricula and uTrack showcases to be updated to include Volunteer Core requirements
Implementation Details

Implementation calendar and course proposal forms are now posted online at the Undergraduate Council web site.

http://ugcouncil.utk.edu/
(look for Volunteer Core menu item)

The General Education committee will meet on a monthly basis for the rest of AY 2018-19 and throughout AY 2019-20 to facilitate quick turn-around of course proposals.
Didn’t You Forget Something?

The new *Contemporary Issues & Solutions* graduation requirement is not part of the Volunteer Core curriculum. A separate information session about this new requirement will be scheduled for later in the Spring term.