

Charge of the General Education Task Force:

In the ten years since the implementation of the IU South Bend General Education curriculum, much has changed within the landscape of higher education in the state and nationally. At the same time, as with all universities, curricula have evolved with new courses, new programs, and new understandings of the purpose of undergraduate education. Both internal and external pressures, along with the fact that the general education curriculum is ten years old and in need of review, has led to the establishment of this task force.

The following questions will guide the work of the Task Force:

1. Does the IUSB general education curriculum meet the needs of 21st century students?
 - What should our students be able to do and know upon graduation from IUSB?
 - What are the learning outcomes of the current general education and how do they compare to new thinking on essential learning outcomes for general education?
 - What evidence do we have that our students are meeting current general education outcomes?
 - How can we revise our general education in ways to enhance recruitment, retention, and persistence among students?
2. What are ways that we can revise the general education curriculum so as to:
 - Incorporate more intentionally the learning outcomes we adopt?
 - Align general education learning outcomes more clearly to major programs?
 - Provide clearer pathways for student success through their academic programs?
 - Integrate co-curricular, civic engagement, ethical reasoning, and community-based learning into the general education curriculum?
 - Ensure that all students have opportunities to engage in high-impact practices in their first two years at IUSB?
 - Interweave assessment of student learning outcomes throughout the curriculum?
3. What challenges does the campus face in revising its general education curriculum?
 - How do we accommodate transfer students in our general education curriculum?
 - What is the best way of administering and monitoring the general education program?
 - How do we respond to the growing trend and support for students to complete their general education in dual credit programs?
 - How do we respond to the growing support for online education?
 - How do we accommodate the need for students to complete their degrees in 120 credits in high-credit professional and science majors?
 - How can we create a truly campus-wide general education curriculum that all first time beginning students can fulfill without falling behind in their majors?
 - How can a general education revision ensure that the campus community understands and explicitly values the purposes of general education?
 - What resources will be available to support a renewed and revised general education program?

General Education Task Force – Draft Timeline

November & December 2015

- Review and edit charge of Task Force
- Identify and recruit faculty to participate as members of the Task Force

Spring 2016

- Task Force meets and begins work - Background reading on general education
- Several Task Force members attend annual General education meeting sponsored by AAC&U in February in New Orleans
- Campus wide meetings to discuss current general education and need for reform/revision
- Review of general education assessment data - direct and indirect measures
- Review of general education governing and administrative structures
- Subset of Task Force members apply and get accepted to AAC&U General education Workshop to take place
- 2016, Boston University- must determine a project to develop there
- April report to Academic Senate on Task Force progress

Fall 2016

- Task Force reviews campus findings on general education
- Begins to formulate areas that need reform
- Begins to generate and investigate areas for revision

Spring 2017

- Reviews various models for revising general education
- Begins formulating concrete recommendations for change
- Presents alternatives to campus constituencies for feedback

Fall 2017

- HLC Review in October - feedback on general education
- Complete General education recommendations for presentation to Academic Senate
- Present to Academic Senate at November meeting

Spring 2018

- Make revisions to General education recommendations
- Final vote at February or March Senate meeting

Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

- TBD

Revised General Education program goes live in Fall 2019