

General Education Council Members

<i>Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>Bette Jackson, Mike McDonald, Rebecca Totaro</i>
<i>Business</i>	<i>Charles Matthews</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Lois Christensen</i>
<i>Health Professions</i>	<i>Halcyon St. Hill</i>
<i>Library Services</i>	<i>Danielle Rosenthal</i>
<i>Professional Studies</i>	<i>Mary Ann Zager</i>
<i>Academic Advising Council</i>	<i>Carol Burnette (non-voting member)</i>
<i>General Education Director</i>	<i>Joseph Ravelli (non-voting ex officio member)</i>
<i>University Housing</i>	<i>Pam Schreiber (non-voting ex officio member)</i>
<i>Student Government</i>	<i>Kamla Kay McKenzie (non-voting ex officio member)</i>

Your voice is important!

***We hope you will attend the university-wide
Conversation.***

***Session dates: March 30th 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
April 5th 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.***

Location: Senate Chambers (Student Union 213)

General Education at Florida Gulf Coast University

Mission

The FGCU General Education Program helps students transition to the university experience, promotes mastery of the undergraduate student learning goals, encourages independent learning, and facilitates selection of a major. A comprehensive curriculum with a foundation in civic engagement challenges students to develop the knowledge, skills, and perspectives necessary for personal growth and success.

History

In the fall of 2003, Florida Gulf Coast University created a General Education Taskforce to begin the important process of assessing the entire General Education Program for the first time in the university's history. The taskforce created a mission and learning goals for General Education. In the fall of 2004, the Faculty Senate created a standing Senate Team for General Education. This team, the General Education Council, continued the work of the taskforce and began to assess General Education in preparation for SACS accreditation review, which included the identification of four measurable competencies—skill fundamental to academic success. As part of this assessment plan, the Council determined that a university-wide conversation would help guide the future of the General Education Program at Florida Gulf Coast University. To this end, the Council has created the following Assumptions and Principles which will guide this conversation.

Assumptions and Principles for the General Education Conversation

- ◆ The General Education Program needs to be reviewed and assessed on a periodic basis to ensure that it meets university goals, incorporates best practices, and advances student learning. One methodology for this review, called the General Education Conversation, employs dialogic practices resulting in meaningful information and feedback.
- ◆ General Education is central to the entire undergraduate education process and transcends discipline and administrative boundaries. Therefore, it provides a common ground for critically needed university-wide discussions about the purpose, nature, and success of an FGCU education.
- ◆ Students who emerge from an effective General Education Program will be well prepared to succeed in upper level coursework. The General Education Program lays the foundation for all academic programs, and it requires the support of all the colleges and other units that affect student learning. Therefore, faculty, students, administrators, and staff are strongly encouraged to participate in the Conversation.
- ◆ Well-educated graduates will be productive and responsible citizens. Therefore, a successful General Education Program benefits employers and other communities external to the university. These parties have a stake in the evaluation process, and their participation in the Conversation is strongly encouraged.
- ◆ To be successful, the Conversation about General Education must be an open, civil, informed, and robust dialogue that challenges the status quo where appropriate, rises above personal interests, and places student learning at the center.
- ◆ The General Education Council has overall responsibility 1) to plan and implement the Conversation, 2) to ensure that all parties are represented, and 3) to ensure that, through a transparent process, the information generated through the Conversation is objectively and accurately synthesized and provided to the university for its consideration and use in enhancing the General Education Program.

General Education Competencies

After completing the General Education Program, students will demonstrate that they can do the following:

Quantitative Reasoning

- Solve mathematical problems;
- Analyze and interpret quantitative data;
- Summarize data into graphic and tabular formats;
- Make valid inferences from data;
- Distinguish between valid and invalid quantitative analysis and reasoning.

Oral Communication

- Select a topic, and develop it for a specific audience and purpose, with respect for diverse perspectives;
- Organize and deliver a clear and effective presentation, with command of verbal and nonverbal communication;
- Use active listening skills in interpersonal settings;
- Participate in and lead group discussions effectively.

Written Communication

- Employ the conventions of standard written English;
- Select a topic, and develop it for a specific audience and purpose, with respect for diverse perspectives;
- Select, organize, and relate ideas and information with coherence, clarity, and unity;
- Develop research skills including the ability to collect, analyze, synthesize, and accurately present and document information;
- Apply critical reading skills.

Critical Thinking

- Define a problem using appropriate terminology;
- Select and organize information;
- Identify assumptions and underlying relationships;
- Synthesize information, and draw reasoned inferences;
- Formulate an appropriate problem solving strategy;
- Evaluate the feasibility of the strategy.