

Foundation of Knowledge

The Foundation of Knowledge Program (FOK) is designed to be dynamic, maintaining enough flexibility to adapt to changing needs of students while also maintaining enough stability to facilitate:

- a focus on enhancing student learning in courses over time,
- integration of student learning from the knowledge areas into other courses (e.g., learning communities, vertical integration in a major, minor, or area of focus), and
- assessment of student performance relative to the stated outcomes of the Foundation of Knowledge program so that efforts to increase student learning are based on evidence-driven inquiry.

This evidence-driven practice will come from an assessment strategy that emphasizes formative and summative evaluation at the overarching program level, as well as at the level of the individual courses that make up the program.

A guiding principle of the changes to the General Education Program resulting in the Foundation of Knowledge Program was creating a coherent learning experience that prepares students for life and work in a rapidly changing 21st Century environment. The General Education Committee (GEC) is charged with guiding the program.

Foundation of Knowledge Program Structure

The Foundation of Knowledge Program is capped at 150 courses. The cap is intended to keep the program manageable and ensure high quality courses can be offered consistently for students.

The following considerations are included in this cap:

- Honors Program cohort courses that fulfill program requirements are included in this count.
- MAT 128 and 129 count as one course.
- Any variations of a course (i.e. STA 205 and STA 205R or courses with a companion lab) count as one course.

To ensure breadth of immersion in the general education program, only two courses with the same prefix can be used toward the completion of the general education requirements across the

program categories of *Oral Communication*, *Mathematics & Statistics*, *Natural Science*, *Cultural Pluralism*, *Individual and Society*, *Culture and Creativity*, and *Global Viewpoints*. Courses completed in the *Written Communication* category do not count toward the two-prefix limit.

In meeting the broader *Scientific & Quantitative Inquiry*, *Self & Society*, and *Culture & Creativity* requirements, students may use only one course from any given discipline. Students may only apply one foreign language course in fulfillment of the *Culture & Creativity* category.

New Course Approval

Each fall, GEC members will determine whether new course proposals will be accepted for the following year. Members use assessment data, enrollment, and other analyses to monitor trends and needs within the program, including the need for courses in specific categories, student demand, and the diversity of courses within a category.

When new course proposals are accepted, a call for proposals will typically be issued early in the fall semester. Courses will go through the established curriculum process, including review by the GEC then sent to UCC for approval. GEC will review the proposal based on information provided in the new course proposal form and supporting documentation.

Program Review and Continuous Improvement

All courses are assessed once during an assessment cycle (approximately every 3-5 years). At the end of the assessment cycle, the Faculty Director of General Education will review all SLO assessment data collected across all categories and prepare a report for GEC. The report will include enrollment data and analysis of the extent to which outcomes of the Foundation of Knowledge Program are being met and provide recommendations for improving the program.

Every academic unit with an FOK course is required to: 1) include appropriate FOK category SLOs in the syllabus; 2) use FOK syllabus template; 3) seek continuous improvement in student learning through participation in general education assessment; and 4) offer the course at least once every two years.

The Faculty Director of General Education will be responsible for tracking whether FOK courses are offered at least once every two academic years. Courses that do not meet requirements will be subject to review and removal from the program.

Revision History

Adopted May, 2012

Revision passed by Faculty Senate, January 2021 meeting

Revision passed by Faculty Senate, 3/31/2025