

## **Foundation of Knowledge**

Adopted May, 2012; revised Fall 2020

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 both 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 125 courses. Honors Program cohort courses that fulfill program requirements constitute nine courses in this count. MAT 128-129 and all Written Communication II courses (i.e. ENG 102 and all 291Ws) count as one course in the respective list.

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 “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 and Creativity category.

### **New Course Approval**

Proposed general education courses go through the established curriculum process, first reviewed 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. General education courses go through the established curriculum process, including review by the GEC before UCC. Unless otherwise decided, the GEC will accept proposals for new courses every fall semester.

### **Program Review and Course Recertification**

Every five years a programmatic review of the Foundation of Knowledge Program will be completed through coordination of GEC, the Faculty Director of General Education, and the Vice Provost's Office. As part of the review, 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.

All current FOK courses are required to: 1) include appropriate FOK category SLOs in the syllabus; 2) use FOK course template; 3) submit artifacts for general education assessment; and 4) fill out and submit form showing evidence of using the assessment results to seek improvement of student learning. Courses for which required materials are not provided will be subject to review and removal from the program.

Certified general education courses must be offered at least once every two academic years or will be subject to review and removal from the program. The Faculty Director of General Education will be responsible for tracking whether or not FOK courses are offered at least once every two academic years. GEC will review the proposal based on information submitted.