

General Education Committee and Governance

The Foundation of Knowledge spans across NKU departments. The program is "owned" by the university at large and serves all NKU students. In 2012, Faculty Senate established the General Education Committee, a committee that partners with the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs. The partnership of faculty and administration ensures that the intellectual integrity of NKU's General Education Program is maintained and provides faculty leadership and administrative support for the continuing evolution of Foundation of Knowledge.

General Education Committee Roster 2019-2020 (moved from membership roster tab)

[General Education Committee Bylaws](#) (approved by Faculty Senate Oct. 2019)

Overview

Foundation of Knowledge (FOK)

The Foundation of Knowledge (FOK) being a distributive model of general education, is almost entirely populated with introductory level courses, and offers flexibility in satisfying requirements, especially for students whose time-frame to complete a degree is more than four years.

The current version of the General Education Program was approved in 2009, with additional Senate and Board approval given in 2012 to cap the courses in the program at 125. The rationale for the cap was two-fold: to assure quality in the program that could be assessed; and to provide as much common intellectual experience as can be achieved in a distributive model of general education. A few pilot courses were accepted in 2013, but then a series of years when by when no new courses were considered until 2017, with a handful of new courses being added to the 2018-2019 catalog. Since that time, the Gen Ed Committee has announced if new courses proposal will be considered during the next academic year.

The five categories of general education courses and student learning outcomes provide students with essential competencies, as well as introducing students to broad areas of knowledge.

The rationale for the FOK-General Education Program was detailed in the Founding Proposal for the program and relates directly to the University mission.

Through Foundation of Knowledge (FOK) our students are beginning the journey to understand, value and embrace the multicultural tapestry that is Foundation of Knowledge and to define themselves as distinctive NKU Graduates who:

Thinks Critically

Communicates Effectively

Reasons Scientifically

Frames Philosophically

Express Artistically

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