

DATE: January 12, 2009

TO: University Senate

FROM: General Education Committee and University 189 Task Force Members (Kristen Aas, Susan Council, Brenda Deckard, Linda Fricker, Nancy Kaler, Margaret Lee, Kevin McCaul, Char Myhre, Oladotun Obadina, Jackie Schluchter, Carolyn Schnell, and Gary Smith)

RE: Recommendation from the Final Report of the University 189 Task Force (April 23, 2008)

Recommended Framework for University 189 Courses with Content Examples

A core of four objectives should be required for all 189 courses replacing the original twelve. Beyond the core objectives, faculty members have the flexibility to customize the course to fit student needs, faculty expertise, or departmental/college needs.

Course description

This course is designed to ease the transition for new students at North Dakota State University. The students will learn skills and techniques used by successful college students. In addition, topics such as navigating campus resources and services, making career-related decisions, and fostering a sense of community will be emphasized.

General Education

Successful completion of this course will serve to meet the General Education First Year Experience academic requirement for students entering NDSU.

Core Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify and navigate campus services.

Examples: NDSU Community rights and responsibilities - A Code of Student Behavior • Bison Connection • Bookstore • Counseling Service • Career Center • TRIO Programs • Registration & Records • Disability Services • Student activities • Multi-Cultural Student Services • Wellness Center • ITS • Library

2. The students will identify/learn techniques and activities for enhancing academic success in higher education.

Examples: Information Technology Services • Library and information skills • ACE • Identify the difference between High School and College • Study skills and test taking strategies • Time management • Goal setting • Personal learning style • Responsible decision making • Rights and responsibilities of community • Academic integrity • Plagiarism • Student support services

3. The class will assist the students in making career-related decisions.

Examples: Getting to know your advisor and department faculty • Getting to know the Career Center and Counseling and Disability Services • Study abroad • Internships and co-ops • Volunteer Network • Program curriculum

4. The class will foster a sense of community.

Examples: The class will ... Become an environment of supportive peers • Encourage individual contact with the course instructor • Encourage individual contact with a student's academic adviser • Include small-group as well as whole-class active participation

The UNIV 189 Task Force reviewed the current description of the course and the original objectives that many courses have adopted or modified:

1. The student will become familiar with the campus and the services offered
2. The student will develop an understanding of personal learning style
3. The student will study techniques for academic success in higher education
4. The student will learn effective goal setting
5. The student will learn effective time management
6. The student will learn effective stress management
7. The student will practice responsible decision making
8. The class will become an environment of supportive peers
9. The class will encourage individual contact with the course instructor
10. The class will encourage individual contact with a student's academic adviser
11. The class will include small-group as well as whole-class active participation
12. The class will assist the student in making career-related decisions

From these twelve, four core objectives were identified that should be included in every University 189 course:

1. Students will be able to identify and navigate campus services.
2. Students will identify/learn techniques and activities for enhancing academic success in higher education.
3. The class will assist the students in making career-related decisions.
4. The class will foster a sense of community.

Beyond the core objectives, faculty members have the flexibility to customize the course to fit unique student needs, departmental or college needs, faculty expertise, common readings, etc.