

Human Development and Education Department Meeting Summaries

- Critical thinking, problem-solving, and synthesizing are crucial.
- Effective communication skills (in written, oral, and graphic media) are essential for students to succeed as professionals.
- Employability requires professionalism, critical thinking, adaptability, and life-long learning.
- The purpose of general education is to educate a student in the essential skills of reflective learning, critical thinking and informed dialogue, as well as effective written and oral expression, on the topics considered to be of importance to their worldview and understanding - humanities, history, etc. It should ensure that all students have a basic grounding in core areas we consider important for educated people.
- GE should involve broad-based learning and critical thinking skills, as well as ability to express oneself, are important components of citizenship, workplace effectiveness, and successful relationships.
- We need smaller class sizes so that we could have more writing intensive assignments in GE courses.
- Students need to learn how to articulate their thoughts and ideas, how to make clear points, how to develop an argument, and how to be open to and appreciative of other's perspectives.
- Students need to know how to find information and how to critically evaluate the quality of that information.
- Group work is something that will pertain to the 'real world' after graduation. Knowing how to work and effectively communicate with others is essential in the workplace.
- General knowledge and well-rounded knowledge will give students the ability to learn and understand in a more comprehensive way. As they move into specific classes for the major, the experience and general knowledge already learned will provide a base for future learning.
- **It would be nice to explore General Ed offerings that allow professors in diverse disciplines to develop integrated courses that look at linkages across areas in specific historical periods, domains of knowledge, etc. For example, a history of civilization course taught by someone in psychology, physics, and the humanities. This is done at many places - not much here?**
- The purpose of GE should be to expose students to subject areas that they would not normally take classes in, to give students a well-rounded background, to provide general education information that the student's can use for all areas, and to provide the student with knowledge that prepares them for whatever they decide to major in.
- GE should teach students how to learn and how to develop study and work habits that can help serve them in their future courses and careers.
- GE should develop students' abilities in critical thinking and problem solving.
- Should GE include basic financial literacy?
- GE should link to the major by providing critical thinking opportunities, exposure to issues related to population demographics and lifespan, discussing micro and macro economics, and exposure to the scientific process. All of these would put students on a higher plane of learning and help foster success within a major and beyond.
- Teaching our students to be leaders is an important aspect of education as a general matter -- something that will help them as they move into and through the discipline of their choice.

- GE should prepare students intellectually to participate in the modern world by providing students with the foundation of knowledge they will need to later contextualize their specific chosen area of study.
- General education should be a pre-requisite for any major/minor and it should form the foundation upon which further knowledge is built.
- GE should prepare students to be life-long learners. It should create students who are interested, interesting and curious. This means developing habits of mind such as questioning, critical thinking, and seeking out new information.
- GE should have students consider moral issues and questions rather than just "believing" what they have always thought.
- GE should create a common intellectual vocabulary for students and instill and foster a thirst for knowledge.
- Students need to learn how to present their points of view and how to disagree with others respectfully and productively. They need to develop a willingness to question their own beliefs in the context of what they hear from others.
- History, geography, science, math, language arts, reading comprehension, political science, literature, cultural movements, fine arts, and technology are the foundations of GE.
- The current GE program is too diffuse. There isn't a common core that all students encounter. Our gen ed program needs to be more rigorous and universal across the curriculum so that we can use GE in the majors.
- GE should give students them knowledge of the world they live in and their own human tendencies and the challenges of sharing a planet with others. Being a responsible and productive citizen involves recognizing one's role and significance in the broader social context. Making connections between one's own self interests and the needs of society seems to be a critical function of education.