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WOU General Education Update

*Learn as if you were to
live forever.*

Mahatma Gandhi

Did you know:

Over 310 students have requested a substitution or other kind of exception to a General Education requirement?

Over 80% of these are for transfer issues.

About 25% of them involve students who changed their catalog year to opt into the new General Education program.

Need help with General Education Requirements?

Advising Holds have gone on and it's nearly advising time! Academic Advisors are the folks who best understand a student's full degree plan and should be the first stop for students exploring whether or not they have a substitution or exception to a General Education requirement.

If you have a student with a transfer course that doesn't look right, who changed catalog years with a course that appears to have not articulated as expected, or otherwise needs to have a General Education requirement reviewed, we have a process for that!

As in any program, the requirements of the General Education program are built around learning outcomes and content criteria specific to that program. For that reason, exceptions to requirements in the General Education program must be handled by the General Education program and reviewed by the General Ed committee, rather than by individual disciplines.

Not only does this practice ensure that the learning outcomes of the General Education program are being met when exceptions are made, but it also saves students time and energy, as there is a single location to which they can send their petition requests. Since the Gen Ed committee, which is representative of all divisions, is involved in decisions about adjustments to General Education requirements, this process is also inclusive of the University community. Finally, it is also valuable for the General Education program to track adjustments to General Education requirements, including LACC and ADGR requirements, so we can coordinate with the Registrar's office to articulate courses transparently and consistently for students.

Learn more about the General Education petition process at

www.wou.edu/gened/petitions

Find resources to help with General Education advising at

www.wou.edu/gened/for-advisors

Interested in teaching an FYS?

There is still time to submit a First Year Seminar topic proposal! Proposals for topics to be taught in 2020-21 are due to the General Education Committee by November 5, 2019.

Learn more at <http://www.wou.edu/gened/faculty-resources/>

Questions? Looking for FYS proposal help? Contact FYS Coordinator Dr. Shaun Huston.

First Year Seminar Spotlight

FYS 107: Oregon History Detectives is a cross-college team-teaching collaboration between Kim Jensen and Ken Carano, who share a bit about their experience so far:

We designed our team-taught first year seminar Oregon History Detectives to introduce students to analyzing primary and secondary sources to learn more about the history of diverse Oregonians and gain skills in teaching others about that knowledge. Our students have been very receptive to group work and engaging in thoughtful discussions. They also comment that they appreciate that they are all first-year students and they can understand and support one another in their new experiences on campus through the space the FYS provides.

On October 23 our class went on a field trip to two Portland museums to introduce students to additional information about the history of diverse Oregonians and why it is important to uncover and share their stories. We visited the Experience Oregon exhibit at the Oregon



Historical Society, with a particular focus on indigenous histories and the histories of Oregonians of color. We also visited the Discrimination and Resistance Exhibit at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

As students reflect on the field trip and engage in associated assignments, we hope their knowledge and research skills will engender a strong appreciation for diverse voices in our history. Their comments on the field trip suggest this. One wrote: "I greatly enjoyed the trip. It was probably the best time I've had since being in college." Another reflected: "The Experience Oregon exhibit was very cool. I appreciated how it wanted to focus on more than just one perspective or 'experience' of growing in Oregon." For another student: "The Jewish museum was probably my favorite. Not only was the exhibit informative, but it was empowering." And one student commented on the impact of the museum visits this way: "I was able to learn more about racism and some of the many challenges people of differences faced in society."

Learn more about all the amazing First Year Seminars at <http://www.wou.edu/gened/fys-schedule-card-view/>

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