



CHANGES FOR 2021-2022

Welcome to 2021-2022. There are a some key personnel changes in the General Education program. Dr. Shaun Huston (Department of Sustainability) is the new director and Dr. Leanne Merrill (Department of Mathematics) is the new First Year Seminar (FYS) Coordinator. There are also new courses, notably for Health Promotion and the Integrating Knowledge requirements. You can view these courses, and all courses currently available for fulfilling General Education requirements, in the Catalog:

https://catalog.wou.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=6&poid=2093

In addition the General Education Committee made changes to the proposal process for General Education courses. For the FYS, this year is the first year that the committee will be considering both renewals of previously taught courses and also proposals for new courses. Proposals to renew previously taught courses will require information not required for new seminars, including course syllabi and reflections on teaching the FYS. In both cases the deadline for proposals is Tuesday, November 9.

For non-FYS General Education courses, the primary changes are to the assessment section of the proposal. The new design is intended to streamline this part of the process and also has been refocused onto the Mission of the General Education program.

For details, you can refer to the Course Proposal Guides: <https://wou.edu/gened/proposalguides/>

INTRODUCING THE NEW DIRECTOR, DR. SHAUN HUSTON

I am honored to be succeeding Dr. Erin Baumgartner as Director of General Education. For most of my nearly twenty-years at WOU, I have been deeply involved in general education, as a teacher and through university governance. I was part of the task force that designed the current General Education program and have been involved in the implementation of that program as a member of the General Education Committee and as the First Year Seminar Coordinator. I believe that our current program serves students well in promoting, particularly, cross-disciplinary learning and skills and competencies for life-long learning. For many of our students, particularly those whose post-college plans are focused on goals and aspirations outside of academia, their general educations will likely be as, if not more, important to them than their major programs. I know this was the case for me, and I did end up academia, but in a field that my undergraduate college did not even offer.

In Fall, I have “drop-in” office hours on Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 and 2:00-4:00. I will have a chat window open during those times and will also be readily accessible via e-mail (gened@mail.wou.edu), phone and text (503-838-8296). I am also happy to open a Zoom room or go to Google Meet. Feel free to contact me during these hours or to make an appointment to discuss your questions and concerns about General Education.

I look forward to serving the campus community in my new role.

INTRODUCING THE NEW FYS COORDINATOR

As a relative newcomer to the General Education Program at WOU, I am excited to be the 2021-2024 FYS Coordinator, and grateful to my colleagues for selecting me for this role. As a member of the first cohort of FYS instructors, I am passionate about the FYS Program as a catalyst for equity-focused student learning and pedagogical innovation at WOU. I plan to continue the work of Dr. Shaun Huston, the previous FYS Coordinator, providing opportunities for networking and idea-sharing for FYS instructors and making sure the schedule meets the needs of our students and faculty. I also intend to focus on FYS courses as a lever for our broader recruitment and retention efforts at WOU. I believe that a successful FYS program can have a strong positive effect on enrollment and student success, and through continued strengthening of our classroom practices through a lens of equity and inclusion, more WOU students can achieve their dream of completing an undergraduate degree.

I am readily available via email at merrill@wou.edu for any questions or conversations about the FYS Program. Thanks to all of our current and future FYS instructors for their innovative and effective FYS teaching, and I look forward to welcoming more faculty into the FYS Program in the next three years.

EVENTS:

FYS GET TOGETHERS

Thursday, October 28, at 2pm in the First Year Seminar Google Space

Tuesday, November 16 12pm-1pm in the WUC (room TBA)

Tuesday, December 7th at 2pm-3pm on Zoom

Contact Leanne Merrill (merrill@wou.edu) for details

PROPOSING COURSES FOR THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The focus of this overview and Q & A are proposing courses for the Gen Ed requirements that are not the First Year Seminar: Foundations, Exploring Knowledge and Integrating Knowledge. We will discuss choosing the best requirement for your course, key questions from the proposal forms, and meeting General Education Committee expectations.

CLICK TO VIEW

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GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM