Why Gen Ed?

Gen Ed courses can broaden your horizons, sharpen your life skills, and prepare you for our diverse world.

What’s in it for you?

Employers are looking for:
- Independent, creative problem-solvers
- Effective communicators
- Productive contributors in a diverse workplace

Everyone needs skills in:
- Writing
- Critical Thinking
- Working with diverse perspectives

Gen Ed: Let it work for you.

The Integrative Experience

Presentation by the General Education Council to the Faculty Senate

October 13, 2011

www.umass.edu/gened/teachingAdvising/integrativeExperience/ie.html
Overview: Integrative Experience

1. Context: IE Legislation, Criteria, Options, & Time-Frame (Maurianne Adams, Chair, General Education Council)

2. Support from the Davis Educational Foundation grant (Martha Stassen, Assistant Provost, Assessment and Educational Effectiveness)

3. Interim Report on IE Funding Models (Carol Barr, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Continuing Education)
GenEd Task Force 2007-2009 : 27 members
(12 members from the Gen Ed Council)

Maurianne Adams (Education)
Martha Baker (NRE)
Carol Barr (ISOM)
Elizabeth Chilton (Anthropology)
Barbara Cruikshank (Political Science)
Alexandrina Deschamps (Women’s Studies)
Isabel Espinal (Library)
Robert Feldman (Psychology, Dean, SBS)
Justin Fermann (Chemistry)
Stephen Gencarella (Communication)
Judy Goodenough (Biology)
Anne Herrington (English)
Randall Knoper (English)
Mark Leckie (Geosciences)

Alan Lutenegger (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
John McCarthy (Linguistics,)
W. Brian O’Connor (Biology)
Amilcar Shabazz (Afro-American Studies)
Julian Tyson (Chemistry)
Wilmore Webley (Microbiology)
Gordon Wyse (Biology)
Marilyn Blaustein (Institutional Research)
John Cunningham, GETF Chair (Deputy Provost, Dean of Undergraduate Education)
Bryan Harvey (Associate Provost)
Pamela Marsh-Williams (Assistant Provost)
Richard Rogers (Associate Provost)
Martha Stassen (Academic Planning and Assessment)
GenEd Task Force Actions in 2010

- Clarification of General Education Purpose and Learning Objectives (AAC&U Essential Learning Outcomes)
- Improved General Education communications (Website, Online submission process)
- Enhanced General Education instructor development and support (Workshops, Gen Ed Fellows, Communication with Instructors)
- 3-to-4 credit conversions for GenEd “Social World” courses
- Most important for our purposes today: approval of framework for Integrative Experience
“Integrative learning comes in many varieties:

- connecting skills and knowledge from multiple sources and experiences;
- applying theory to practice in various setting;
- utilizing diverse and even contradictory points of view; and,
- understanding issues and positions contextually.”

(Statement on Integrative Learning, Association for American Colleges and Universities & the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, March 2004)
IE Logistics:

- The Integrative Experience (IE) is an upper-division General Education requirement, minimum 3 credits.
- The IE is imbedded in the student’s major, and can also be counted toward the major.
- Departments decide the options that will satisfy the IE for their majors.
- Departments use the GenEd IE online submission form to develop (1) their Overall Departmental Plans, and (2) their Specific Option Proposals.
Departmental Responsibilities and Timeline:

- Departments design the IE plan & options for their majors.
- Departments identify an IE coordinator.
- Departments submit their **Overall Departmental Plans** for review through the GenEd IE *online proposal system*.
- Departments submit **Specific Option Proposals** (separate proposal for each option) for approval through the GenEd IE *online proposal system*.
- **Note:** There are 2 separate submission chains: (1) Overall Departmental Plan for the “big picture” and (2) Specific Option Proposals for GEC review & approval as IE’s.
IE Criteria are the basis for GEC

The IE addresses its goals by fulfilling each of the following three criteria. These criteria are basis for GEC review and approval of specific options.

1. Does this option provide a structured, credited context for students to reflect on and to integrate their learning and experience from General Education courses and their major.

2. Does this option provide students with the opportunity to practice General Education learning objectives such as oral communication, collaboration, critical thinking and interdisciplinary perspective-taking, at a more advanced level.

3. Does this option offer a shared learning experience for applying prior learning to new situations, challenging questions, and real-world problems.
IE Options/Models

1. **Revise existing courses or capstones** to meet the 3 IE criteria;

2. **Design new courses** to meet the 3 IE criteria;

3. **Credit-bearing Modules** – in sequence, or to supplement courses or other credited learning experiences – to address the 3 IE criteria;

4. **Thesis, service learning, field experiences, practica**, structured in such a way that they address all of the 3 IE criteria;

5. **New or revised cross-unit collaborative courses**: between departments/majors; between schools and colleges.
Examples of Options presented to GEC so far

[Works in Progress]

- Revision of Capstones
- Revision of Current Courses
- New Courses
- One Credit Modules (need to take 3)
- Current Courses with One Credit Addition
- Seminars for departmental Honors students
- Option for Education minors
- Collaborations: cross-departmental, cross-schools/colleges
Implementation Time-Frame

- **Year 1 -- 2010-2011**, develop pilot courses, seminars or other credit-bearing IE options for review by the General Education Council.

**Year 2 -- 2011-2012**, submit Overall Department Plan for majors and specific IE option proposals to the GEC, no later than January 2012, for implementation in 2012-2013. (Waivers for transfer students who graduate by May 2012.)

- **Year 3 -- 2012-2013**, departments/majors will be prepared for full implementation for juniors (if their implementation plan is scheduled for juniors), with 2013-2014 full implementation for seniors.
Help and Support are Available:

- Campus-wide Workshop on Integrative Learning (Held September 28th) – Others will be offered in the future.
- IE Website & On-Line IE Proposal Submission Process
- Steering Committee Consultation Available
- Departmental “Seed Grants” (Proposals Due 10/17/11)
- Davis Fellows’ IE Proposed Models as Examples

*Davis IE Fellowship Participants 2010-2011, 2011-2012*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afro-American Studies</th>
<th>Geosciences</th>
<th>Legal Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Sport Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture</td>
<td>Vet &amp; Animal Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>College of Natural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>College of Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Plant &amp; Soil Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information on IE Funding Models

- IE Steering Committee of Gen Ed Council
  - Develop cost framework, scale range of likely resource needs
- Distribute IE Steering Committee information: Department Heads/Chairs, Deans, Provost
- Questions on Primary Instructional or Instructional Support Costs added to IE Departmental Plan proposals
- Deans and Heads/Chairs discuss implementation plans for IE, with Dean approving IE Departmental Plan
- Provost and Deans discuss costs, transitional costs
- Puts in place a campus-wide IE Program
Process

Departments Initiated

- Dept. Head/Chair Submits IE Plan
- Dept. Head/Chair Submits IE Options

Dean Reviews & Discusses with Dept. Chair

- Dean Reviews & Approves/Discusses with Dept. Chair
- Dean Reviews & Approves/Approve Options

Department’s IE Plan Accepted & Provided to Gen Ed Council

Gen Ed Council (IE Subcommittee) Reviews/Approve Options