APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PROPOSING A COURSE FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

All courses offered or proposed for General Studies credit must meet the criteria listed below. Courses currently in the program must maintain these requirements to continue their General Studies status. The General Studies Committee of the Faculty Senate is charged with reviewing courses for acceptance and monitoring the status of current courses in the curriculum. Criteria include:

1. General Studies courses must be open to all students with the exception of courses with an IDH prefix (specifically designated as Honors).

2. General Studies courses must be offered on a regular basis, defined as a minimum of once per academic year.

3. Course syllabi must annually identify student learning outcomes for assessment. Departments must assess and report assessment findings and specific decisions related to course improvement for all General Studies courses taught. Assessment findings must include a definition of “competent” and the extent to which students in the class met the level of competency, usually expressed as a percentage. Lecture courses must assess two student learning outcomes from the Domains Matrix and laboratory sections one learning outcome. Note that courses designated Gordon Rule Writing must assess writing, courses designated Gordon Rule Math must assess Quantitative Reasoning, and courses designated as Multicultural must assess Cultural Awareness. As one of their two assessments, Natural Science and Mathematics courses must assess Critical Thinking; Communication and Humanities courses must assess Communication; Social Science courses must assess Values/Integrity; English Science Labs and Academic Foundations must assess Professional Development. The choice of the second assessment area is up to the department.

4. All sections of General Studies courses are required to include in their syllabi a variation of the statement contained in Appendix B, amended to reflect their particular course and the student learning outcome(s) selected.

5. Each Fall and Spring semester every instructor in all sections of General Studies courses are required to respond to the call for Early Warning feedback by the deadline indicated.
6. All courses must provide consistent instruction and common student learning outcomes across all sections and presentation modalities of the same General Studies course (online, blended, face-to-face).

7. It is expected that instructors in all General Studies courses will regularly take attendance and conduct at least one low-stakes graded assignment of their choice prior to the fourth week of the semester.

8. All sections of every General Studies course must include significant theoretical components that introduce students to the parent discipline. It is also strongly recommended that the course include some degree of applicability of the subject matter to students’ personal and/or professional development.

9. Courses applying for inclusion in the General Studies program must meet the requirements for their particular area as contained in the Task Force on Undergraduate Education as approved by the Faculty Senate as follows in abbreviated format:

COMMUNICATION (6 sh)

I. ENGLISH COMPOSITION  6 sh
A traditional two-semester beginning composition sequence. The first course stresses mechanics, rhetorical design, and voice; the second provides practice in larger expository structures, requires library use and documentation, and involves readings in and writing about literary works. Courses in this category should be writing intensive experiences as defined by the Gordon rule.

MATHEMATICS (6 sh)

II. MATHEMATICS  6 sh
Investigations of and practice in the various facets and methods of mathematics ranging from algebra and geometry to calculus and statistics. Students may complete the General Studies Mathematics requirement by choosing one of the following two options.

SOCIAL SCIENCES (9 sh)

III. SOCIAL SCIENCES: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES  3 sh
Explorations of the geographical, cultural, political, religious, and scientific environments of societies in order to understand the process of their development.

IV. SOCIAL SCIENCES: BEHAVIORAL PERSPECTIVES 3 sh
Investigative surveys of the current knowledge and theory which places human beings at the intersection of their own reasoning and language abilities, biological forces, genetic heritage, and environmental contexts.

V. SOCIAL SCIENCES: SOCIO-POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES 3 sh
Investigations of modern theories concerning the social and political systems created by human beings and the influence of those systems on human thought and action.

HUMANITIES (9 sh)

VI. LITERATURE 3 sh
Investigations of literary texts from various nations and historical periods chosen to reflect either literary genres or literary traditions. Courses in this category should be writing intensive experiences as defined by the Gordon rule.

VII. FINE ARTS 3 sh
Explorations of the nature of the fine arts, either through the practice of one of its disciplines or the study of its historical patterns.

VIII. CONTEMPORARY VALUES AND EXPRESSIONS 2-3 sh
Investigations of the frameworks, values, viewpoints, and expressions which provide guidance for contemporary living in a heterogeneous and multi-cultural society.

NATURAL SCIENCES (7 sh)
Students must take at least one science course with a lab.

IX. BIOLOGICAL/LIFE SCIENCES 3-4 sh
Investigations into and explorations of nature's organic creations in which systematic methods are used to discover the rules that govern nature.

X. PHYSICAL SCIENCES 3-4 sh
Investigations into and explorations of nature's inorganic creations in which systematic methods are used to discover the rules that govern nature.