

General Education Task Force

Auburn University 2008 Strategic Plan

Strategic Priority 1: Elevating Academics

**"The Auburn University System will
elevate undergraduate education and
enrich the undergraduate experience."**

Action Step

**"... conduct a review of general
education requirements and novel
general education programs at peer
institutions."**

General Education Task Force

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- Drew Clark – Inst. Res. & Assessment
- Patricia A. Duffy – Agriculture, UG Studies
- Chris Rodger – Sciences and Mathematics
- J. Emmett Winn – Liberal Arts
- Bonnie J. White, Chair – Education

GETF Charge

- A. Review the University's current
general education requirements.**

AU Core Curriculum 41 hours

- English Composition (6 sem hrs)
- World Literature (6 sem hrs in sequence)
- Philosophy (3 sem hrs)
- Fine Arts (3 sem hrs)
- Mathematics (3 sem hrs)
- Science (8 sem hrs in sequence or 4 hrs
combo with Concepts of Science)
- World History (6 sem hrs in sequence)
- Social Science (6 sem hrs: 3 hrs each from
two groups)

B. Understand the requirements of the General Studies Curriculum established under state law by the statewide Articulation and General Studies Committee.

AGSC Approved General Studies Curriculum

- Area I Written Composition (6 sem hrs)
- Area II Humanities and Fine Arts (12 sem hrs)
- Area III Natural Sciences and Mathematics (11 sem hrs)
- Area IV History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences (12 sem hrs)
- Area V Pre-professional, pre-major, or elective (19 to 23 sem hrs)

C. Determine the extent to which there are opportunities for greater flexibility or inclusiveness within Auburn's general education requirements.

2008 SACS Principles for Accreditation

- Core Requirement 2.7.3
- Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1

Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1

"The institution identifies college-level general education competencies and the extent to which graduates have attained them."

Auburn University General Education Goals

- Information Literacy
- Analytical Skills and Critical Thinking
- Effective Communication
- Informed and Engaged Citizenship
- Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
- Scientific Literacy
- Aesthetic Appreciation and Engagement

D. Look at models used at other land-grant universities.

E. Prepare a report that identifies alternative courses of action, with recommendations, for review by the Provost and discussion with the University Senate.

Recommendation One:

Use the flexibility available in the current Alabama Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) agreement to provide a more inclusive approach to Auburn University's general education requirements.

Steps can be taken within our current Core:

1. Eliminate course requirements that are not part of the AGSC agreement:

Within Current Core:

- a. Reduce the two required sequences (one in Area II, one in Area IV) to one required sequence.
- b. Make philosophy an option in the arts and humanities area.
- c. Bring the science requirement in line with AGSC.

Another Step

2. Offer a longer menu of courses:

Sources of Potential Courses

- a. Auburn University courses not currently part of the Core Curriculum.
- b. New Auburn University courses similar to
 - 1) AGSC-approved courses offered at other state institutions.
 - 2) Courses from peer institutions outside the state.

Other Course Considerations:

- Departments/programs should not restrict course selection by students unless there is a compelling reason.
- Exempt students from selected Core courses if students have high scores on appropriate tests.

Recommendation Two:

Clarify the relationship between the current Core Curriculum and Auburn University's general education outcomes.

To Clarify Relationship

1. Review the current Core as it relates to general education outcomes.
2. Verify that Core courses address the major competencies of the general education goals with which they are identified.

Recommendation Three:

Expand the role of the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee to cover general education outcomes.

Recommendation Four:

Action on Recommendations One, Two, and Three begin by the end of 2009.