



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

OFFICE OF GENERAL EDUCATION AND DUAL ENROLLMENT

NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2016

Thank You from the Director

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the faculty, staff, family, friends, and mentors who work so hard every single day on behalf of our students at UNO and in our high schools! As I continue to learn more about your roles and responsibilities related to general education and dual enrollment, I'm constantly reminded of your tireless commitment to helping the young men and women of our community realize their hopes for a better future. I also want to thank you in advance for the contributions you will surely make as we continue to focus on challenging issues related to faculty qualifications, building a culture of assessment, and creating a sense of community around these important academic programs. Although your significant contributions aren't always widely acknowledged, I know they take place every day and impact our students in countless, meaningful, and lasting ways. Thanks for your support and "Go Mavs"!

Matthew Tracy, Ph.D.

RECENT ARTICLES ABOUT GEN ED AND DUAL ENROLLMENT

1. GEN ED
 - a. [STEM is Vital – But Not at The Expense of the Humanities](#)
 - b. [Too Many College Grads? Or Too Few?](#)
 - c. [Survey Shows Distribution Requirements Remain](#)
2. DUAL CREDIT
 - a. [Are Dual-Enrollment Programs Overpromising](#)
 - b. [Finish High School with Bachelor's degree? At One School, Yes](#)

UPCOMING DUAL ENROLLMENT EVENTS

- Dec 4, 2016 and Feb 25, 2017: Basketball Blowouts
- Apr 6, 2017: Calculus: The Musical
- Apr 9, 2017: AP Biology Study Session
- Apr 22, 2017: AP US History Academic Bowl
- Apr 23, 2017: AP Geography Study Session
- Apr 29, 2017: AP World History Bowl
- Apr 30, 2017: AP Psychology Study Session

UPCOMING DUAL ENROLLMENT SCHOOL REGISTRATION VISITS

- Jan 9, 2017: Millard North
- Jan 12 & 13, 2017: Omaha Burke
- Jan 19, 2017: Bellevue East
- Jan 26, 2017: Millard West

UPCOMING GENERAL EDUCATION EVENTS

- Nov 16, 2016 @ 3:00 PM: Open forum for faculty/staff to ask questions about general education assessment with members of the Gen Ed Assessment Committee, MBSC Dodge Room
- Dec 2, 2016 @ 3:00 PM: Open forum for faculty/staff to ask questions about general education assessment with members of the Gen Ed Assessment Committee, MBSC Chancellor's Room

CONTACTS

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2016-2017 PRIORITIES – ACADEMIC QUALITY AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE

As stated in the first newsletter, the focus of the Office of General Education and Dual Enrollment during this academic year will be on faculty credentials, academic assessment, and a renewed spirit of engagement between students, faculty, and staff. I want to update you on some of the initiatives and progress related to these efforts.

1. Faculty Qualifications

- a. As you are probably aware, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has clarified [their guidelines](#) related to minimum faculty credentials required to teach undergraduate courses, including general education and/or dual enrollment. The Office of General Education and Dual Enrollment is taking the following actions:
 - i. Working with academic units who offer Gen Ed and/or Dual Enrollment courses to define the scope of the issue.
 - ii. Working with units to develop options for faculty that don't currently meet HLC guidelines.
 - iii. Preparing a 5-year extension request to enable the Dual Enrollment Program to fully comply with the HLC requirements.
- b. What you need to know:
 - i. No existing dual enrollment teacher will be discontinued from the program during the duration of the extension period granted by HLC
 - ii. This is an accreditation requirement and is not limited to UNO, Omaha, or Nebraska

2. Assessment

- a. I've had the opportunity to meet with many faculty and staff over the past month to talk about assessment. Here are some of the common questions that have been asked:
 - i. **What is assessment and why should we do it?** Assessment is a *process* designed to provide faculty with a better understanding of how well students are meeting stated learning objectives, while simultaneously fostering communication, collaboration, and initiatives across the institution to help students meet our expectations and succeed in their college journey.
 - ii. **What does the General Education Committee do with the course level assessment reports submitted by the faculty?** The committee will aggregate information from across the general education curriculum to determine effectiveness of the broader [General Education Program](#) in meeting student learning outcomes, assess alignment of program outcomes and courses, prepare a program level report for [UNO's Academic Assessment Committee](#), and provide feedback to academic units.
 - iii. **Help! I don't know where to begin and my assessment report is going to be a mess...what should I do?** First, don't panic. The Gen Ed Committee realizes this might be a new process for some of your units. Assessment does not need to be perfect (in fact it never is), but every journey begins with a single step. We will work through this together, and I'm confident your faculty will help drive important improvements in our general education curriculum. Start with the [General Education Assessment Guide](#). If you're still unsure how to proceed, contact the Office of Gen Ed and Dual Enrollment and we will be happy to visit with you and your faculty.

3. Engagement

- a. Whether teaching an on-campus or dual enrollment general education course, I encourage all faculty to talk with your students about the [structure and purpose](#) of their general education curriculum. This is a critically important first step in helping our students realize the importance of this fundamental part of their educational experience.

DID YOU KNOW??

1. *The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Programs (NACEP) produces the only national set of quality standards for dual credit programs (<http://www.nacep.org/>).*
2. *It's a NACEP "best practice" for university academic departments to conduct site visits to partnering high schools to ensure alignment of content and rigor with on-campus course offerings.*
3. *Academic units at colleges/universities should provide annual discipline specific professional development activities for dual enrollment teachers to address course content, assessment, evaluation, and developments in the field.*
4. *Courses that fulfill [UNO general education requirements](#) should measure student achievement of [general education student learning outcomes \(SLOs\)](#) in addition to any discipline specific objectives. This is also true for dual enrollment courses that count as UNO general education credit.*

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITES

