UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

OFFICE OF GENERAL EDUCATION AND DUAL ENROLLMENT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another exciting year at UNO. I hope you all had a wonderful and productive summer. I'm excited about 2017-2018 as the Office of General Education and Dual Enrollment continues to work with faculty and staff to educate young men and women to help them realize their dream of obtaining a college degree. I remain amazed at the scope and impact of these programs, and want to thank you for your tireless efforts. Last year you helped educate nearly 2,700 dual credit students, and delivered over 200 general education courses on campus, online, via dual enrollment, and at satellite locations throughout Omaha. It is such an honor to serve alongside you in this noble calling. Please do not hesitate to call me, or stop by our office in Eppley Administration 108 if we can assist you, your students, or your efforts in undergraduate education! Thanks for your support and "Go Mavs"!

Matthew Tracy, Ph.D.

RECENT ARTICLES ABOUT GEN ED AND DUAL ENROLLMENT

1. One Highly Overlooked Job Skill
2. Distribution Learning Matters
3. Dual Credit: Race and Income Gaps are Getting Wider
4. Evaluation of the Impact of Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment on College-Going in Nebraska

UPCOMING DUAL ENROLLMENT EVENTS

Volleyball Tailgate Party – Saturday, October 28, Field House

Women's Basketball – Sunday, December 10, Baxter Arena

Men's Basketball – Saturday, February 24, Baxter Arena

Calculus the Musical & Calculus Bee – Thurs April 12, Baxter

AP Study Sessions – TBA in April and May 2018

UPCOMING DUAL ENROLLMENT SCHOOL REGISTRATION VISITS

Westside High School : September 25-29
Blair High School: October 2
Omaha North High School: October 3-5
Ralston High School: October 6
Mercy High School: October 9
Mt. Michael High School: October 10
Elkhorn High School: October 11
Papillion La Vista South High School: October 12
Skutt High School: October 16
Omaha Northwest High School: October 17

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. Grading vs. Assessment Workshop: September 27, 3:00 – 4:30, MBSC Dodge Room
2. Student Engagement & Collaborative Learning through Digital Ed: October 25, 11:00-12:15, CEC 201/205/209
3. Strategies for Collecting & Managing Data: October 30, 2:00-3:00. MBSC Room 224

CONTACTS

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

2017-2018 PRIORITIES – ACADEMIC QUALITY, ASSESSMENT, AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Since arriving at UNO in June of 2016, I have been extremely impressed with the level of commitment, passion, and professionalism displayed by all of the faculty and staff responsible for delivering general education and dual credit courses to our wonderful students. These are highly impactful programs and it is important that we collectively work to offer the highest quality courses that engage students and help them develop the intellectual foundations for success in their subsequent academic, personal, and professional endeavors. Your efforts undoubtedly will help to shape the future of Nebraska and our country. Accordingly, in 2017-2018, I encourage all of us to continue to focus on alignment of dual enrollment with on-campus courses, continuous improvement through our assessment efforts, and helping students more deeply engage with these important undergraduate courses.

1. **Alignment**
    a. Course alignment
        i. It is important that dual enrollment and on-campus course offerings be aligned in terms of content, expectations, and rigor. Teachers, UNO faculty, and unit coordinators should work together to ensure dual courses maintain this level of alignment and are effectively meeting the needs of our students. All dual enrollment course syllabi should align with the minimum content requirements as reflected in UNO master syllabi for the course, should address any relevant general education outcomes as applicable, and should include the UNO course designation and title.
    b. Credentials
        i. As you are aware, in 2016 the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) clarified their guidelines related to minimum faculty credentials required to teach dual enrollment courses. UNO's Dual program has been granted a 5-year extension to comply, and will use this time to support our existing dual enrollment teachers in obtaining additional graduate credits if necessary.

2. **Assessment**
    a. The General Education Assessment Committee has established a regular cycle of academic assessment for general education courses.
        i. 2017-2018: General education courses in the humanities and fine arts distribution area.
        ii. 2018-2019: General education courses in the U.S. and global diversity distribution areas.
    b. The 2017-2018 General Education Assessment Guide provides detailed expectations and instructions for completing your course assessment reports. Each academic unit at UNO with courses that meet humanities and fine arts requirements will need to submit assessment reports for these courses by **May 11, 2018** using the general education assessment template.

3. **Engagement**
    a. General education is the foundation of UNO's undergraduate curriculum and constitutes the majority of courses offered through the Dual Enrollment program. However, students do not always engage fully in this part of the curriculum and may misunderstand its value and purpose. The General Education Committee developed the "Value of Gen Ed" proposition to serve as a resource for communicating to students the purpose and value of general education. Teachers are encouraged to address the value of general education with their students.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. The Office of General Education has established a site in the Canvas Learning Management System that includes discipline specific discussion boards and a wealth of information about dual enrollment expectations and processes to more effectively connect dual enrollment teachers, UNO faculty, and staff. All dual enrollment teachers and coordinators were sent an invitation to participate. Please contact our office if you did not receive an invitation, or have experienced technical difficulties.

2. UNO will be administering the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+) to first-year students throughout the fall semester. THE CLA+ is a nationally normed assessment tool that measures the impact of UNO's curriculum in developing critical thinking, problem solving, analytical reasoning, and writing skills of our students. Please contact the Office of General Education and Dual Enrollment if interested in learning more about this important effort.

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITES

Office of General Education and Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment on Twitter

Dual Enrollment on Facebook