

MCC General Education Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2012

Welcome to the first issue of the MCC General Education Committee Newsletter. Our purpose is to keep you informed of our activities, and we thank you for reading.

Why do we exist...?

Both MCC's Provost and President of the Faculty Senate called a committee to review the MCC General Education requirement. The charge was to fully explore the current requirement and generate recommendations for a local general education requirement that will best meet the needs of all MCC graduates. The MCC General Education Committee was formed in December 2011, and is in the second semester of a two-year charge.

A little refresher...

The present 17 credit hours of MCC General Education are required of all students who are matriculated in associate degree programs. All need to complete courses in Basic Communication (ENG 101/200), Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science, Mathematics, PE/HED, and Infused Competencies in critical thinking and information management. Courses taken to meet these requirements (except PE/HED) will also, if chosen correctly, meet SUNY General Education requirements and similar requirements at private institutions.

Another key element in our review will be to make sure our general education component meets all the elements under Middle State Standard 12 – General Education. The MCC General Education Committee is waiting for any further clarification from SUNY concerning the implementation of its general education policy and the potential impact it may have on how we proceed with changes to our general education requirement.

Follow the link below for more details.

<http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/currprog/newmccgened.htm>



What have we completed...?

Committee members have been meeting approximately every three weeks to learn about requirements and brainstorm ideas for an innovative approach to general education.

Significant accomplishments:

- The committee members formulated guiding principles that will be adhered to as recommendations are formulated.

General Education Committee's Principles for General Education

General Education should:

- 1. Promote an integrated educational experience for students through exposure to a varied curriculum cultivating personal and professional development.*
- 2. Teach necessary skills and competencies, including but not limited to: critical and analytical thinking, reasoning and problem solving, written and oral communication, informational literacy, and technological competency.*
- 3. Accommodate students' diverse academic and professional goals, including completion of a MCC degree.*
- 4. Have courses with applicable value to specific programs.*
- 5. Instill the values of ethics, democracy, diversity, globalization, and civic engagement.*

- For perspective on how other community colleges approach general education, each member of the General Education Committee researched the design and implementation of a general education curriculum at another school. SUNY and CUNY colleges as well as institutions that are members of the League of Innovation were included. The strengths and weaknesses of various models have been discussed and may be used to inform our own general education design.

- A few members from the committee participated in the Institute on General Education and Assessment program held in Maryland in June 2012. MCC was one of only two community colleges that were invited to attend. This program was presented by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) to advance general education reform on campuses.

Where are we headed...?

The General Education Committee has divided up into three subcommittees this Fall to effectively focus efforts where needed while continuing to meet regularly as a whole committee in order to collaborate.

Subcommittees:

- Focus Groups
- Data Analysis
- Communication

Please contact one of the committee members if you have any questions or concerns.

Steering Committee

Mark Ernsthansen, *Faculty Senate Curriculum*

Natasha Christensen, *A/H/P/S*

Mary DiSano, *Chemistry/Geosciences*

Michael Heel, *Academic Assessment*

Committee Members

Chris Belle-Isle, *Career and Transfer Center*

Chris Biehler, *Economics*

Amy Burtner, *LA04 Committee Chair*

Amanda Colosimo, *Geology/Geography*

Kathleen Conklin, *Business Administration*

Elena Dilai, *CAPE*

Char Downing, *Curriculum Office*

Lisa Flick, *Biology*

Kevin French, *Applied Technology Center*

Peggy Harvey-Lee, *Counseling and Advising*

Elizabeth Kelly, *Health and Physical Education*

Eileen Lanzafame, *ESOL/Transitional Studies*

Neeta Primo, *Math*

Krista Rodriguez, *Dental Studies Programs*

Cristina Rowley, *Foreign Languages/ASL*