

Senate Reference No. 23-14

Proposal for Revision of the General Education Curriculum

Why Revise General Education at PFW?

- To better **align with Indiana College Core (ICC)**
 - Two current areas (Interdisciplinary/Creative Ways of Knowing; Capstone Experience) do not align with ICC guidelines.
- To better **align with PFW Strategic Plan**
 - Currently, students may not be exposed to approaches that focus on diversity, inclusion, equity, and global awareness, as emphasized in PFW Strategic Plan.
- To make **valuing of Artistic Way of Knowing**, a unique presence at PFW, on par with other Ways of Knowing.
- To address **lack of perceived coherence** to Gen Ed as a program distinct from a major
 - Practice of “prescribing” specific general education courses within degree plans creates confusion for students who change majors or transfer completed general education.

Foundational Intellectual Skills

- **No change** to minimum credits required in each of the three areas
 - Written Communication (3 cr min)
 - Speaking and Listening (3 cr min)
 - Quantitative Reasoning (3 cr min)
- Courses must **meet all state learning outcomes** in their category

Ways of Knowing

- **No change to Scientific** Way of Knowing (3 cr min)
- **No change to Social Scientific/Behavioral** Way of Knowing (3 cr min)
- **Separate Humanistic/Artistic** Way of Knowing (3 cr min) into two categories:
 - Humanistic Way of Knowing (3 cr min)
 - Artistic Way of Knowing (3 cr min)
- **Eliminate** two Ways of Knowing not in ICC:
 - Interdisciplinary or Creative Ways of Knowing (3 cr min)
 - Capstone Experience (3 cr min)
- Courses must **meet all state learning outcomes** in their category
- Must have no prerequisites other than currently approved Foundational Skills courses

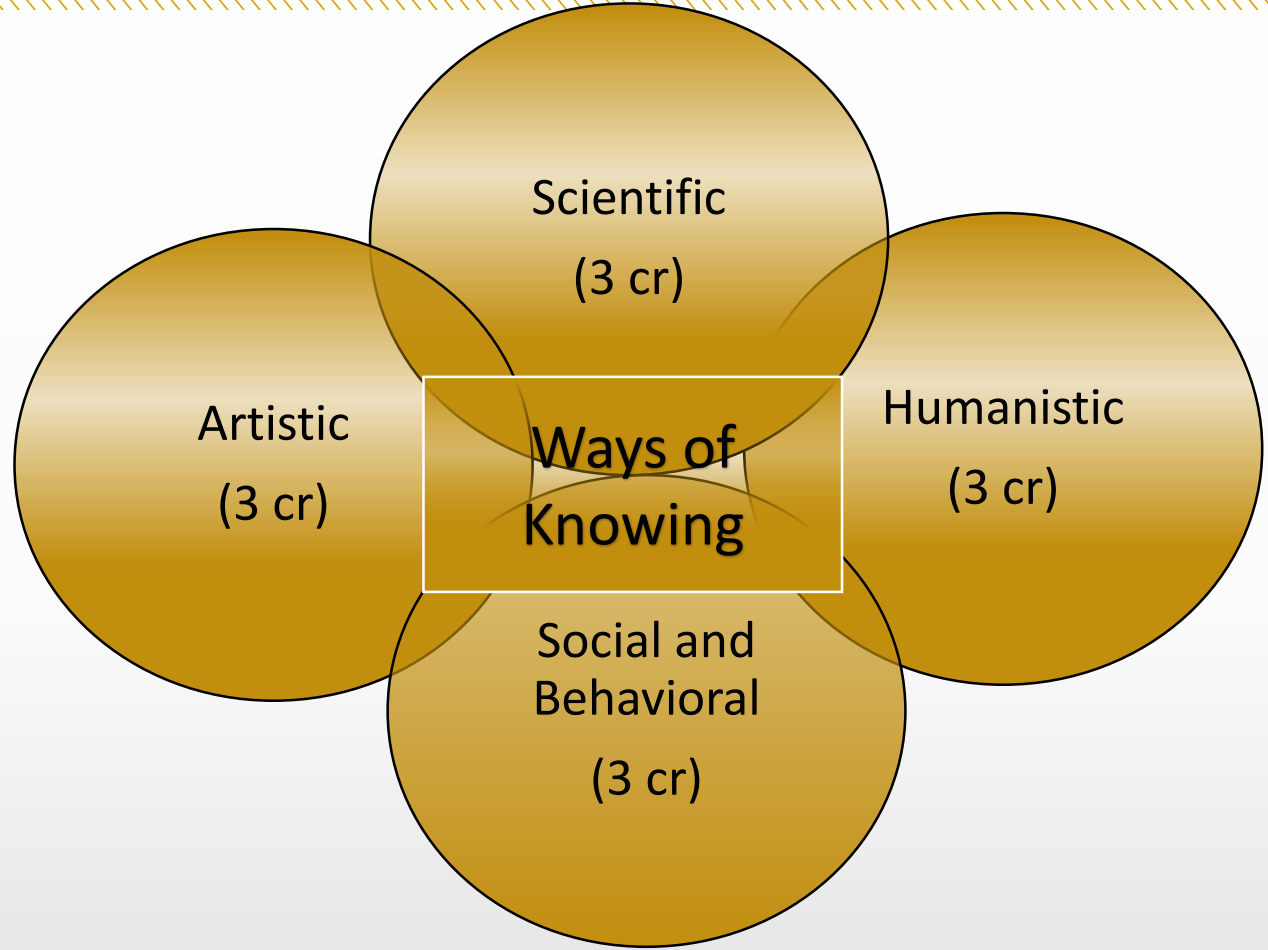
DEI/Global Awareness & 9 Additional Credits

- At least one Way of Knowing **course designated as having a focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or global awareness.**
- **Nine additional credits** from any Ways of Knowing or Foundational Skills category.

Thematic Clusters

- Thematic clusters present **ways to organize selection of courses** within Ways of Knowing around a common theme to provide coherence and meaning to general education coursework.
- Should include courses from **at least three Ways of Knowing categories**.
- Courses should **meaningfully engage with theme**; need not be wholly focused on it.
- Thematic clusters are **optional; not required**.
- Clusters will be **displayed graphically on Gen Ed website** as pathways or maps.
- **Completion could be tracked** through an app (e.g., Suitable), listed on resume, recognized through a LinkedIn badge.
- Clusters will remain relatively stable, with new clusters and courses added to an existing cluster to be approved by Gen Ed Subcommittee for the next catalog year.

Thematic Clusters
(courses drawn from
across Ways of
Knowing categories)



Nine Additional Credit Hours in Foundational and/or Ways of Knowing

Speaking and Listening (3 Cr minimum) Written Communication (3 Cr minimum) Quantitative Reasoning (3 Cr minimum)

Foundational Intellectual Skills

Framing of General Education Program

- Meaning and value of General Education at PFW will be made clear to students through purposeful framing
 - General Education at PFW offers the opportunity to tailor your path with courses outside of your major that will excite your interests and enable you to make meaningful contributions to the world around you. It complements the in-depth knowledge and skills in your chosen field that you will attain through your major. Your general education experience will give you a foundation in broad intellectual skills and different ways of knowing that will continue to have relevance and meaning in your life long after you have graduated. General Education courses will guide you to:
 - Think Creatively
 - Communicate Effectively
 - Reason Scientifically
 - Understand the Human Experience
 - Appreciate Artistic Expression
 - Embrace Multiculturalism
 - Adopt Global Perspectives

Gen Ed Course Assessment & Program Review

- To improve program-wide assessment of General Education:
 - All courses in each Gen Ed category will cycle through a common subset of learning outcomes every three years.
 - Faculty will assess contributions of their courses to General Education using measures they design.
 - Measures across courses in each category will be evaluated using a common rubric for the category. Rubrics will be developed by the Gen Ed Subcommittee with input from the larger faculty.
 - Program review of Gen Ed will occur every three years. Enrollment data and grade distributions will be analyzed to aid coordination of offerings to meet student demand.

Application for Course Review

- Current Foundational Intellectual Skills courses will not need review if they meet proposed requirements
- Current Ways of Knowing courses will be reviewed by Gen Ed Subcommittee in early Fall 2024 for inclusion in the 2025–26 Catalog
- Application will ask for:
 - Intended Way of Knowing category
 - Confirmation that course has no prerequisites other than Foundational Skills courses and will fulfill all learning outcomes for its area
 - Explanation of how course fulfills criteria for DEI and/or Global Awareness (optional)
 - Explanation for inclusion in one of the proposed thematic clusters (optional)
 - Explanation of how course offering could be regularized to at least once per academic year if not already the case
 - Course syllabus