

## West Chester University's General Education Program

All WCU students are required to take courses, called general education requirements (or Gen Eds), to provide them with a broad, encompassing liberal arts background. WCU believes its graduates should be well-rounded individuals as well as be prepared to enter the workforce in a chosen profession. As a result, these general education requirements, along with courses in their major, electives, and extracurricular activities, will provide a solid foundation for all programs of study taught at the University.

### *Goals of the WCU General Education Program*

At West Chester University, the General Education Program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and perspectives as well as specific competencies necessary to them as citizens of the state and of the world. We believe that a liberal educational base will prepare students to think and communicate as professionals, to understand social and global contexts of their lives, to transfer knowledge and skills from one setting and career to another, to recognize ethical implications of professional practice, and to balance the various dimensions of their personal and professional lives. The courses our students take in general education, however, cannot stand alone. Rather, we intend that they will be integrated with other parts of the curriculum and college experiences so that a degree from West Chester University represents attention to academic, social, work, and private lives. In combination with the students' total academic programs and co-curricular activities, the General Education Program is directed at producing graduates who are able to

- Communicate effectively
- Employ quantitative concepts and mathematical methods
- Think critically and analytically
- Demonstrate the ability to think across and about disciplinary boundaries
- Make informed value decisions and ethical choices
- Respond thoughtfully to diversity

### *Revisions to WCU's General Education curriculum*

As part of its Strategic Plan, WCU is working to improve the General Education curriculum. This is a faculty-led process, and new faculty are encouraged to be part of ongoing conversations about what we want all WCU graduates to know, experience, and be able to do as a result of their education here. As exciting as this is, the implementation date is Fall 2017, and at that time the new program will only apply to incoming students. This means that the current Gen Ed curriculum will remain in effect well into the 2020s (assuming that *some* students who enter in Spring 2017 will take as many as six years to graduate). Therefore, a thorough knowledge of the existing General Education curriculum will remain important for quite some time.

### *For Further Information*

Over your next few years here, two reliable resources for further information about the General Education Program will continue to be

- the *Undergraduate Catalog* (hard copy or online)
- the current CAPC Gen Ed Chair; see the CAPC website for who this is in any given year:  
<http://www.wcupa.edu/admin/associateprovost/capc.asp>