

Requirements for General Education Pathway Certificate Programs Framework Document (rev 8/31/20)

Purpose of Pathway Certificate Programs (from the General Education Program Proposal document, approved by CAPC in December 2016): “In an effort to encourage more cross-disciplinary thinking, to provide students more opportunities for applying information and learning approaches across multiple disciplines, and to provide a cohesive approach to more easily integrate the General Education program within the goals of a degree program, faculty can work collaboratively to create 12-credit certificate programs for General Education pathways designed to address specific themes. These certificates will appear on student transcripts.”

Note: Completing a Pathway Certificate is optional and is not in lieu of any General Education requirement.

Requirements

1. Three of the four courses (9 of the 12 credits) in a Pathway Certificate Program (PCP) must be general education courses with different prefixes.
2. PCPs must include three to five program goals and list at least two student learning outcomes (SLOs) per goal.
3. Each approved course in a PCP must include at least two student learning outcomes for each of at least two of the PCP program goals. Note that whereas the SLOs in an originally approved PCP framework are illustrative only, and individual preparers may include other SLO, in order to allow assessment moving forward, at least one SLO for each goal must come from the CAPC-approved PCP framework documentation. This requirement means that the collaborative faculty proposing new pathways should be broad in their thinking about the kinds of courses that might fit into the PCP. The goals/SLO for an approved PCP can be updated with CAPC approval.
4. Courses to be included in PCPs need to provide evidence of how course SLOs will be assessed.

Recommendations

1. Instructors across courses in a particular pathway should strive to emphasize the connectivity of the goals within that pathway, helping students to link course learning objectives and activities to the broader theme.
2. Transferred courses can be used in pathways as long as the WCU equivalent course has been designated as a pathway course. Transferred courses that are not equivalent to an approved WCU pathway course can be petitioned through the usual process, including provision of adequate documentation of learning outcomes that meet those of the specific pathway.

Adding or removing a course to an existing pathway

Faculty who wish to add or remove a course from an existing pathway should follow current procedures for the CAPC *course* approval process. This might be an edit to an existing course to include the pathway designation, or creation of a new course. The General Education Committee will be responsible for evaluating proposals with respect to pathway criteria, though review by other CAPC committees (e.g., UGPC) will be included in the workflow as with any other course or program change. Faculty teaching in the existing pathway may be consulted to ensure consistency with the PCP. Once the course proposal is approved, the Gen Ed Chair or CAPC Support will make the necessary *program* changes.