

## General Education Committee Annual Report (2017-2018)

The General Education Committee met as a full committee five times in the 2017-2018 academic year. A summary of the activities of the committee during the 2017-2018 academic year follows.

1. MUSC u162 and SOST u201 were added as new general education courses.
2. Change in curriculum or program requests were approved for BIOL u220 and u220L, DGST u101, MUSC u162, SOST u201, ENGL u208. These requests allowed individual programs to accept or reject the listed courses as general education courses in the appropriate distribution area for their majors and minors.
3. Requested changes to competency alignments were approved for INFO u101 and CHEM u109. INFO u101 requested that two SLOs be deleted, and CHEM u109 requested a change in SLOs
4. Minor editorial changes were made to clarify and update both the *Change in Curriculum or Program General Education Requirements* and *General Education Competency Alignment* forms.
5. CAT Reports – CAT teams were formed for CAT 1, 3, and 5 to review new assessment data.
6. A main focus of the General Education Committee in was a change in general education assessment methods. The majority of standardized tests used to assess general education competencies have been or are scheduled to be retired. The only standardized tests that will remain available are for CAT 4 and CAT 5. In September 2017, a subcommittee was formed to investigate options to replace the assessment tools. The members of the committee are: Richard Combes, Sam Cooper, Briget Doyle, David McCurry, Courtney McDonald, and Kim Purdy.
  - a. The subcommittee investigated and discussed options and determined that the best option for general education assessment moving forward is the development of student ePortfolios. The subcommittee recommended to the full General Education Committee that USC Upstate begin to transition to ePortfolios as assessment tools, and the Gen Ed Committee agreed.
  - b. In Fall 2017, a survey was sent to all academic departments requesting that faculty who teach General Education courses determine if they currently use or can easily adapt an existing assignment, etc., into an artifact for inclusion in an ePortfolio. 73% of the courses in the units that responded currently have assignments that are suitable or can be adapted to ePortfolios.
  - c. Committee members are working with ITS, Institutional Effectiveness, and other parties interested in assessment to find appropriate software that will link with Blackboard for ePortfolio submission and assessment.
  - d. It is the recommendation of the General Education Committee that USC Upstate move forward with the transition to ePortfolios beginning with a pilot portfolio-based assessment for CAT 1 in Fall 2018, with other competency areas phasing in over time. We will continue assessing with existing standardized tests during the transition.
  - e. Funding and training will be made available for faculty who volunteer to assist with ePortfolio evaluations.