

## Eastern Michigan University's General Education Program Education for Participation in the Global Community

(<https://www.emich.edu/gened/>)

### Guiding Principle

General Education is the core of an undergraduate education. It is general in that it provides students with a comprehensive educational experience and prepares them for study within their major. General Education teaches students to think critically and communicate effectively; it provides an introduction to the methodologies and practices of the academic disciplines; it promotes intellectual curiosity and a love of learning. General Education is the heart of an EMU education and source of institutional pride.

### Contacts

- Director of Undergraduate Studies: Michael Tew ([mtew@emich.edu](mailto:mtew@emich.edu))
- Director of General Education Program: John Koolage ([wkoolage@emich.edu](mailto:wkoolage@emich.edu))
- Chair of Subcommittee of Assessment: W. Douglas Baker ([douglas.baker@emich.edu](mailto:douglas.baker@emich.edu))
- Organizing Committees: Advisory Council, Assessment, Learning Beyond the Classroom (LBC), Professional Development, Vetting (of courses), Writing.

### Overview of Coursework (<https://www.emich.edu/gened/genedmasterw17.pdf>)

In the General Education Program students complete the following:

- Effective Communication (speech and writing) (6 hrs.)
- Quantitative Reasoning (at least 3 hrs.)
- Knowledge of the Disciplines (24 hrs.) – eight courses across four fields of study
- Perspectives of a Diverse World (6 hrs.)
- Upper Level Writing—“writing intensive” (3 hrs.)
- Learning Beyond the Classroom—opportunities to learn about “self and well-being,” engage in “community service, citizenship, and leadership,” attend “cultural and academic activities and events,” engage in “career and professional development,” participate in “international and multicultural experiences,” and/or conduct a research project.

### LEAP Projects

#### *Focus on Assessment*

The General Education Subcommittee on Assessment (GESA) coordinates with departments and instructors across the Program to systematically assess student learning. The current system focuses on assessment plans built by invested instructors. GESA reviews and provides feedback on these plans, coordinates efforts to develop assessments using EMU's course management system, and offers annual assessment training.

#### *High Impact Practices*

This year the Program began an inventory of High Impact Practices.

#### *LEAP Team*

We have recently funded a Fellow position dedicated to LEAP. The Provost's Office has also provided a grant writer to work on LEAP related projects from within the General Education Program. This team, in concert with the Director, will begin projects in line with LEAP goals.

### EMU General Education Program & LEAP

Essential Learning Outcomes	EMU General Education Program Categories
<p><b>Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World</b> Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts</p> <p>Focused by engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring</p>	<p><b>Knowledge of the Disciplines (GEEK) – 24 hrs.</b> Because each discipline offers a different perspective for understanding the world, understanding anything well requires some understanding of all of them. Students employ <i>critical thinking skills to develop questions of inquiry that reflect an understanding of different disciplinary perspectives.</i></p> <p><b>Perspectives of a Diverse World – 6 hrs.</b> Because of the interconnectedness of nations, very few organizations function solely in the U.S. We all need to <i>understand the world in which we live; to be informed citizens, we need to be able to think about and understand other cultures.</i> By studying a number of nations or one nation in depth, students learn the skills for understanding other cultures. College is often the first place where students are placed in an environment with people unlike them. We all need to learn respect for other persons, and such respect comes with knowledge. An understanding of and appreciation for diversity is central in employment, civic participation, and life more generally.</p>
<p><b>Intellectual and Practical Skills, Including</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inquiry and analysis</li> <li>• Critical and creative thinking</li> <li>• Written and oral communication</li> <li>• Quantitative literacy</li> <li>• Information literacy</li> <li>• Teamwork and problem solving</li> </ul> <p>Practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance</p>	<p><b>Effective Communication (GEEC) – 6 hrs.</b> Communication is frequently cited as employers' number one concern with college graduates. Education in <i>speaking and writing</i> is essential in helping students <i>think clearly</i> and in helping them <i>organize and present</i> their thoughts effectively. Individuals need to be able to <i>communicate effectively</i> for their own advancement and for their engagement with the world.</p> <p><b>Quantitative Reasoning (GEQR)</b> <i>Quantitative reasoning</i> skills are required in almost every major and professional program, as well as in personal and professional life. Students need <i>quantitative literacy</i> to function in society. Common examples include managing one's own finances (e.g., credit card debt), reading and understanding the newspaper, and informed voting.</p>
<p><b>Personal and Social Responsibility, Including</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global</li> <li>• Intercultural knowledge and competence</li> <li>• Ethical reasoning and action</li> <li>• Foundations and skills for lifelong learning</li> </ul> <p>Anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges</p>	<p><b>Learning Beyond the Classroom</b> A university education is about more than just classes. Students involved in activities outside of the classroom have higher retention rates and more positive educational experiences. Learning Beyond the Classroom encourages students to obtain <i>hands-on experience and to learn about professionalism</i>; it also provides a way to apply classroom knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self and Well-Being</li> <li>• Community Service, Citizenship, and Leadership</li> <li>• Cultural and Academic Activities and Events</li> <li>• Career and Professional Development</li> <li>• International and Multicultural Experience</li> <li>• Undergraduate Research</li> </ul>
<p><b>Integrative and Applied Learning, Including</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies</li> </ul> <p>Demonstrated through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> Coordination of Writing Across the Curriculum &amp; University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshman Composition</li> <li>• Mid-Curriculum Writing</li> <li>• Writing Intensive (in major)</li> </ul> <p><b>Example:</b> Learning Beyond the Classroom Apply learning outside of the classroom to knowledge learned in the classroom (see above)</p>