

6-Credit Integrated GE Plan -- (Snappy Title Still Needed)

President's Charge -- Design an innovation in the GE Program incorporating the following concepts that seem to contribute to student success/retention:

1. Multiple GE Knowledge Areas are integrated.
 2. The effort is driven by faculty.
 3. Students are grouped into learning communities/cohorts.
 4. The program is scalable to include a larger population of students than SIP and Jumpstart.
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Plan -- Offer students a suite of new 6-credit GE courses that each combine two Knowledge Areas. Courses will have the following qualities (tied to the objectives within the [Strategic Plan](#)):

Pedagogy

- **Learning-Outcome-Centric Courses** (OBJ 2.1.1) - Faculty won't be tied to existing courses or content. Faculty will be free to apply backward-design concepts to ensure the Knowledge Area Learning Outcomes (KALOs) from each Knowledge Area are central to the course.
- **Learning Communities** (OBJ 2.1.1) - Students will gain the benefits of sharing 6 credits with a common cohort, and they will also connect with the rest of campus in their other courses.
- **Professional Development** (OBJ 3.1.2) - Faculty proposing a new 6-credit course will gain professional development through the CETL's Curriculum Innovation Grant (CIG) workshops. Through these workshops, faculty will complete appropriate Curriculum Committee and GE Committee approval forms.
- **Team Teaching** (OBJ 3.1.1) - Faculty will benefit from co-teaching with their chosen colleagues. Their ownership of the new course will likely lead to increased satisfaction and energy, which will likely translate to students' excitement for the course. The emphasis on KALOs will help to guide course construction around learning outcomes.

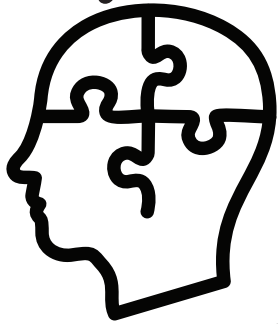
Registration Logistics

- **Relevance** - A course number will be assigned to each combination of two Knowledge Areas and can allow for special topics with the combination. Sections of that course number can be proposed/designed by any two professors, so the 6-credit courses can remain relevant without requiring new Curriculum Committee and GE Committee approvals.
- **Revenue** - Program fees will go to SIEL. SIEL will transfer a portion of the program fees to the college(s) of the two faculty teaching the course.

Recruitment and Advising

- **Integrated GE** (OBJ 2.1.1) - Recruiters will be able to show prospective students that they can fulfill GE requirements in meaningful, integrated courses. A hypothetical example might be a 6-credit course called Patterns in Dance that combines the Quantitative Reasoning Core Area with the Fine Arts Knowledge Area.
- **Advising** - Advisors will be able to fill these courses more easily than SIP or Jumpstart because we hope to have multiple combinations of just two Knowledge Areas. Students with concurrent enrollment credits or transfer credits are unable to participate in SIP or Jumpstart without repeating credits because these programs integrate so many Knowledge Areas, but students will be more likely to find a combination of just two Knowledge Areas that they still need. Likewise, some majors (e.g., PVA and COSE majors) commonly prescribe GE courses and/or are highly structured, making SIP and Jumpstart poor fits, but students are more likely to be able to find a combination of two Knowledge Areas that works for their degree plan.

Integrated GE Knowledge Areas



6 credits, **2** Knowledge Areas

✓ Topical & timely

✓ Fully USHE transferable

✓ Built on KALOs

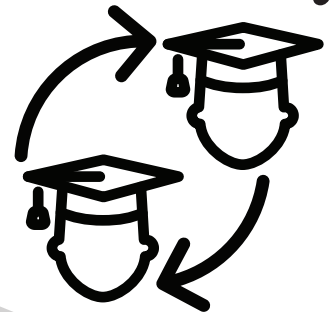
✗ Restrictive

Driven by *Faculty*

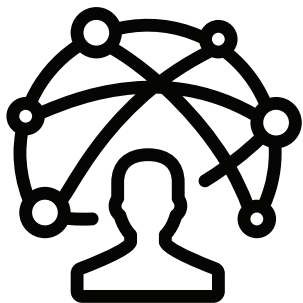
2 passionate faculty members, **1** course topic proposal

3 Curriculum Innovation Grants Workshops

✓ Fresh, renewable curriculum



Cohorts for Students



1 course X **6** hours per week X **15** weeks

2 professors X **40+** students

✓ Built-in time for out-of-classroom experiences

Scalability by the *Numbers*

670 new students* with **0** earned credits

83% new students with **0-21** earned credits

16 average credits earned by new students upon entry



* New students defined as "New First Time" or "Freshmen HS 1-5 YRS" admission type. Does not include transfer students or new students with an associate's degree already earned (e.g., SUCCESS students).