

Proposal for Summer 2021 General Education Institute
and formation of the UH General Education Curriculum Design Team

In AY 2017-2018, the General Education (GE) program at UH Manoa underwent thorough self-study and external program review, that produced recommendations for changes to its governance, operations, and curriculum (see program review documents posted [here](#)). The Manoa Faculty Senate's General Education Committee (GEC) has made significant progress in addressing and implementing some of those recommendations, especially as it relates to the structure of general education. However, designing a new "Blue Sky" curriculum is best approached as a system initiative given that all 10 campuses have adopted the same general education requirements. This new curriculum will embrace competency-based education rather than a distribution requirements ("checklist") approach, and incorporate a range of learning outcomes not addressed in the current GE curriculum; together these innovations support the development of an exciting signature curriculum for UH.

The proposed Summer 2021 General Education Institute will shave more than a year off of the curricular reform process by bringing together a group of faculty, staff, and students to produce a new GE model for the UH system. AY 2021-2022 will be devoted to an intensive process of widespread consultations across all ten campuses, as required ([EP 5.209](#): see III.C.1.e.), followed by submission to faculty senates and the Board of Regents at the end of the spring 2022 term or start of the fall 2023 term.

Participants in the Summer 2021 General Education Institute will constitute the UH General Education Curriculum Design Team. The Institute and collaborative effort will be organized by the Office of the Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy, with content and materials provided by UHM's General Education Office. The Design Team members will collectively bring expertise on written and oral communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, critical thinking, interdisciplinarity and breadth, faculty governance, transfer and articulation issues, Native Hawaiian perspectives, assessment, and student engagement. The Design Team should also ensure representation from the following constituencies:

- UH Community Colleges
- UH Hilo
- UH Manoa
- UH West Oahu
- Transfer and articulation specialist
- Advising
- Assessment
- Undergraduate students

Design Team members will work intensively over at least a 4 week period in July 2021, independently, in small groups, and over zoom, to design a new competencies-based GE curriculum to replace the current GE core (Foundations and Diversification) and Special Graduation requirements across the System. At a minimum, and in accordance with the

curricular requirements described in [Regents Policy 5.213](#), the Design Team will be provided with research, assessment data, structured discussion questions, and a specific charge to produce a new proposed GE curriculum for UH that draws on our strengths as a System and on each campus, provides for flexible curricular implementation by our different faculties, and ensures maximally seamless transfer and inter-campus articulation. Toward these ends, the Design Team will study: models of GE and broad national trends in GE; thematic pathways; core competencies (writing, oral communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy and research, critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and creative problem-solving); ways to leverage UH campus-specific curricular strengths and foci (e.g., sustainability, Native Hawaiian perspectives and pedagogies); models of liberal education (e.g., exposure to disciplinary breadth), interdisciplinarity; transferability of skills, and scaffolding learning; and “soft skills” (e.g., civic and community engagements, habits of lifelong learners, teamwork, intercultural competencies).

Participants will be offered stipends equivalent to one course overload as compensation for the significant time investment required by participation in the Summer Institute and in the System-wide consultations that will follow in AY 2021-2022.