

Date: 2/16/15

To: University Curriculum Committee

From: General Education Subcommittee to the UCC

RE: Philosophy and Rationale for General Education at Lock Haven University

Overview:

Lock Haven University's General Education Program has four overarching goals:

- Providing a broad foundation of knowledge for intellectual growth
- Fostering the acquisition and refinement of college-level skills in communication, critical thinking, and conceptual processes
- Enabling students to integrate and apply the knowledge gained from diverse contexts or disciplines
- Encouraging the development of personal and social responsibility, including global and multicultural citizenship

The curriculum for general education includes three key components:

- Intellectual Foundation
- Knowledge and Inquiry
- Personal and Social Responsibility

Intellectual Foundation

This area of general education promotes students' success, at LHU and beyond, by fostering the development of skill sets and analytical processes, including written and oral communication, critical thinking, information literacy, and mathematical or computational operations. Relevant skills are established at the foundational level (for instance, in introductory-level courses) and reinforced in upper-division classes (for example, in advanced courses for particular majors or programs).

Knowledge and inquiry

This facet of general education illuminates the ways in which the disciplines of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences generate knowledge about the world. To fulfill this requirement, students will complete a variety of courses that provide broad and foundational introductions to the relevant fields of knowledge and modes of inquiry. Students will have opportunities to apply or amplify this knowledge in courses for their majors, in classes that emphasize personal and social responsibility, and by participating in experiential learning opportunities (such as internships or study-abroad programs).

Personal and Social Responsibility

This aspect of general education emphasizes praxis, as students apply knowledge to real-world situations. Qualifying courses and experiences promote intrapersonal understanding, and they also enrich interpersonal knowledge and communication. The nine credits dedicated to Global and Multicultural Citizenship, a distinctive feature of LHU's general education curriculum, ensure that students develop the critical perspective that only comes through analyzing events or experiences (individual and collective) from various social, cultural, or political vantage points. Accordingly, LHU graduates will be prepared to make informed and significant contributions to our increasingly connected world.