

Approved by Faculty Senate March 18, 2021

WSU Program

Description

In light of concerns about how General Education was structured at Weber State University, the General Education Improvement and Assessment Committee (GEIAC) created a new category of courses with a course designation of *WSU*. WSU courses are lower-division classes that fulfill multiple Gen Ed requirements by addressing a topic in an interdisciplinary manner.

There are 28 possible WSU courses, which are all possible pairs of core (QL, AI, COMP) and breadth (PS, LS, SS, CA, HU) Gen Ed requirements. The Registrar worked out the coding of such courses so that WSU course numbers designate the two particular core and/or breadth requirements being fulfilled.

Mission

As part of the Weber State University General Education program, WSU courses pose big questions that address significant issues about the world and help students apply their thinking and develop personal and social responsibility, which is demonstrated through signature assignments. The purpose of the WSU Program is to provide students access to unique, team taught, high-impact, interdisciplinary courses aligned with the General Education program outcomes.

Procedures

- Course Structure
 - WSU courses are lower-division classes that address a topic in an interdisciplinary manner and are not merely survey-style introductions to a discipline. By uniquely integrating two disciplinary areas, WSU courses fulfill two General Education (core or breadth) requirements.
 - WSU courses are committed to High Impact Educational Experiences. To fulfill that commitment, course delivery modalities are limited to Face-to-Face or 50% or higher Face-to-Face Hybrid. Course enrollment is limited to 20–40 students. Any exceptions will need to receive approval from the WSU Advisory Committee (see below).
 - WSU course proposals requesting an exception to the course delivery modality and/or max enrollment must include recommendations from the GE areas impacted by the course.
 - Exception proposals will be reviewed by the department chairs in the relevant GE areas.
 - After receiving feedback from relevant department chairs, GE Area Committee members will vote on the exception proposals.

- A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority (with at least 50% of chairs voting) is required to approve exception proposals.
- For single department Gen Ed Area Committees (i.e., QL and COMP), the individual department chair will have to approve.
- As with all General Education courses, each WSU course must be framed around a Big Question (BQ), that is tapped in some way by a Signature Assignment (SA). The SA must be deliberate in its integration of the two areas of focus in the WSU course. Instructors for these courses must take special care to ensure the SA addresses GELO 4, Connected and Applied Learning.
- WSU courses must address and have course assessments aligned with both sets of area learning outcomes (ALOs) underlying the course.
- Course Proposals and Approval
 - Instructors seeking to teach a WSU course are invited to apply each fall semester to be approved for the following academic year.
 - The WSU course application process requires that Instructors provide a justification for the course, describe its uniqueness in the curriculum, and create a syllabus with details of the course content, assessments, and student learning outcomes.
 - WSU course proposals are first reviewed by the two GE Area Committees addressed by the course for their adequacy in assessing and achieving the respective GE ALOs.
 - WSU course proposals are then reviewed and approved by the General Education Improvement and Assessment Committee (GEIAC) for their interdisciplinary nature and alignment to the respective ALOs.
 - WSU course proposals are finally reviewed and approved by the University Curriculum Committee for their overall quality and fit in the curriculum.
- Instructors
 - Instructors teaching WSU courses must have expertise in the course content.
 - Instructors are expected to be present in all classes.
 - Instructors will be responsible for assessment aligned to course outcomes.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - MOUs will be completed between the Director of General Education, the Instructors, and their respective Department Chairs for each WSU course.
 - MOUs specify the following:
 - Instructor Responsibilities
 - Director of General Education Responsibilities

- Departmental approval for inload teaching
 - Payment Structure
- Contributions to Student Completion of General Education
 - Students may take multiple WSU courses, but only non-overlapping GE attributes from subsequent courses will count towards GE requirements.
- Organization and Oversight
 - A WSU Advisory Committee consisting of voting members of GEIAC will be responsible for WSU course oversight. The WSU Advisory Committee will:
 - Review WSU courses proposals.
 - Review exception proposals that change course delivery modality and/or max course enrollments.
 - Work with the Director of General Education to make the final decision on any exception proposals.
 - The Director of General Education is responsible for administration of the WSU program, including:
 - Scheduling WSU courses each year, while attending to the distribution of Gen Ed attributes offered in WSU courses in a given year and balancing old and new WSU course offerings.
 - Reviewing WSU course evaluations
 - Working with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to review course assessment data on ALOs and Signature Assignments for GELOs.
 - Draft a yearly report on the WSU Program to the WSU Advisory Committee, who will review, affirm, finalize, and include this report in the yearly GEIAC report to the Faculty Senate.
- Funding Structure
 - The Office of the Provost will provide primary funds for WSU courses.
 - WSU courses will be funded at full load for each instructor.
 - Payment will be based on credit hours (not SCHs or per head), and can either be paid as overload directly to instructors or to the instructors' departments if taught in-load.

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Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for WSU Courses

Subject

This MOU defines and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of both instructors teaching a WSU course and the Director of General Education (DGE) in a given semester.

Description

As part of the Weber State University General Education program, WSU courses pose big questions that address significant issues about the world and help students apply their thinking and develop personal and social responsibility, which is demonstrated through signature assignments. The purpose of the WSU Program is to provide students access to unique, team-taught, high-impact, interdisciplinary courses aligned with the General Education [program outcomes](#).

Students may take multiple WSU courses, but only the non-overlapping Gen Ed attributes from subsequent courses will count toward Gen Ed requirements.

Course, Course Approvals and Funding

- The MOU applies to WSU _____ (___ Credits, CRN: _____), titled _____, to be taught by the “course instructors.”
- The course instructors affirm that the arrangements for teaching the WSU course have been approved by their Department Chair or Program Director and will be scheduled by the Director of General Education (see Terms).
- Course instructors will receive either **in-load** or **overload** credit for teaching the course.
 - If being taught for in-load credit, the instructors’ departments will be compensated at the rate of adjunct wage to make the department whole.
 - Name of instructor(s) earning **in-load** credit:

 - If being taught for **overload** credit, the instructor will be compensated at the rate of per credit hour adjunct wage.
 - Name of instructor(s) earning **overload** credit:

Terms of the Agreement

Instructors

- WSU courses are committed to High Impact Educational Experiences. To fulfill that commitment, course delivery modalities are limited to Face-to-Face or 50% or higher Face-to-Face Hybrid.
- Enrollment in WSU courses is limited to one section, 20–40 students.
- Any exceptions to course delivery modality and/or max enrollment need to receive approval from the WSU Advisory Committee.
- Instructors teaching WSU courses must have expertise in course content and are expected to be present at and participate in all class periods.
- WSU courses must be framed around a [Big Question \(BQ\)](#) that is stated in the course syllabus. The BQ should tap into the heart of both disciplines and help students see what they can do with what they are learning.
- WSU courses must include a [Signature Assignment \(SA\)](#) that is labeled as “Signature Assignment” in Canvas. The SA must be deliberate in its integration of the two areas of focus in the WSU course. Instructors for these courses must take special care to ensure the SA addresses [GELO 4](#) (Connected and Applied Learning).
- WSU courses must address and have course assessments aligned with both sets of area learning outcomes ([ALOs](#)) underlying the course (*e.g.*, a WSU course with SS and LS attributes must address all three SS and all eight LS learning outcomes).
- Instructors teaching WSU courses must provide the DGE with their course assessment data in the provided rubric within 4–6 weeks of the end of the semester.
- Instructors teaching WSU courses are responsible for handling their own textbook orders with the Weber State Bookstore.

Director of General Education (DGE)

- The DGE will work with the course instructors to determine the day/time the course will be offered.
- The DGE will work with relevant staff to find classroom space for the WSU course.
- The DGE will provide the course instructors with their CRN once assigned.
- The DGE will review WSU course evaluations and discuss any necessary feedback with the instructors to ensure the courses provide high quality, high impact educational experiences.
- The DGE will receive course assessment data in the provided rubric on all course area learning outcomes. The DGE will work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to review assessment data, including Signature Assignments, to assess the GELOs.

MOU Duration

This memorandum will be valid for the academic year _____

Parties to the Agreement

- Director of General Education, Dr. Leigh A. Shaw
- Course Instructors

Signatures

Director of General Education, Leigh A. Shaw _____
Date

Instructor 1 (name) _____
Date

Instructor 2 (name) _____
Date