KBOR Systemwide GE Framework and Proposed WSU GE Program

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What is the KBOR system-wide GE Framework?

https://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/general-education
What is the KBOR GenEd policy and what are its goals?

• “At the end of FY 2020, the Board expressed a strong desire to develop a more robust system-based approach to facilitate student transfer. Building on this vision, in FY 2021 and 2022, the Board established a goal to develop a systemwide general education (GE) package under a common framework. When framing this goal, the Board instructed Board staff to develop a system-based GE package that would maximize the application of credit throughout the system, simplify processes for transfer students, and remove barriers for transfer students.”

The policy revisions and additions pertaining to GE and the application of transfer GE credit were approved by the Board on June 15, 2022.
Does WSU have to comply with this policy?

- Yes. “State universities are required to comply with every aspect of both policies.”
The Seven Buckets Framework

• The systemwide GE program framework is to the right and is comprised of 34-35 credit hours organized in six discipline-based “buckets” and an institutionally designated bucket. A student who satisfies all seven buckets will complete the systemwide GE program.
Transfer Policy
Students who did not complete System-wide GE

This remains largely unchanged. A student who transfers without the KBOR GE notation must meet WSU GE requirements and each course may be reviewed.
Students did complete System-wide GE

• Each KBOR institution determines that a student has satisfied the system-wide GE requirements. KBOR mandates that a student transferring to WSU from any KBOR institution with this notation will have satisfied the requirements for GE at WSU.
Some important details about accepting the KBOR GE notation for transfer students

• Grading
  • If a receiving institution requires all its native students to earn a “C” or higher in a specific GE course(s), it cannot require a transfer student who completed the systemwide GE to retake and ultimately earn a higher grade in such a specific GE course in which he/she earned a “D” Grade; however, it should be noted that if the student is pursuing a program with a grade standard that is required to meet selective admission criteria or is necessary to meet programmatic accreditation or licensure standards, the student may be required to retake a GE course and ultimately earn a higher grade.

• Performance Courses (see the Arts and Humanities Bucket)
  • If a receiving institution prohibits native students from using a performance course (e.g., piano I) to apply toward the six-credit-hour arts and humanities bucket, it cannot enforce the same standard when a transfer student completed the systemwide GE.
This statement below has led to the most confusion and concern by the committee. Adademic Affairs is seeking.

• An incoming transfer student who completed the systemwide GE can be required to complete additional GE when the student:
  • pursues a major for which the Board President and CEO has granted permission to continue requiring – and not waive – a specific course requirement that is classified in the GE area of the degree; or
  • pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and CEO has granted permission to deviate from the systemwide GE requirements.
10. If a program wants to require a course that was previously listed in the general education portion of the degree, can it include it in the major portion of the degree?
Yes, so long as it is required for both native students and transfer students and it is listed in the major portion of the degree (outside the 34-35 credit hour GE framework).

11. Is an institution prohibited from offering a program-specific or institution-specific English/writing course in the GE?
No, but certain provisions must be met when requiring this type of course for transfer students. An institution is not permitted to require transfer students who completed the systemwide GE or did not complete the systemwide GE but earned an acceptable grade in English Composition I and II to take such a course unless it has been approved by the Board President and CEO to continue requiring – and not waive – such a course....
Proposed WSU GE Policy
WSU Implementation

• “At the latest, this will need to take effect on each campus for first-time students and transfer students who begin in the Fall of 2024.” “Nothing prohibits an earlier implementation.

• Aug 16, 2022 the Faculty Senate President charged the general education committee to produce a new WSU GenEd policy which complies with the KBOR systemwide framework. A subcommittee consisting of 4 members of the GenEd committee (M. Muether, B. Lockard, J. Wolcott, R. Myose), a representative from the registrar’s office (S. Fiscus), the Associate VP for Academic affairs (L. Glenmaye), and a representative from LAS advising (P. Phillips) was formed to produce the policy and met 5 times this past semester.

• The policy was approved by the full GE committee on Jan 23 to bring forward to the Faculty senate for consideration.
• The KBOR framework leaves little room for variation except in the institutional bucket (#7). In general, we aimed for compliance and maximal flexibility while supporting the unique FYS and diversity components of our existing program.

• The committee found in reviewing the framework that WSU’s existing GE program largely complied with the new policy. The next slide will highlight the differences.
Changes from current GE policy.

KBOR Framework Requirements

- Total required credits hours in the Gen ed program are reduced from 36 to 34-35.
- The Fine art Discipline has merged with humanities. Students now pick two subjects within this larger bucket.
- Math and Statistics have been separated to a district discipline from Natural Sciences.
- All students are required to take a NS Lab.
- There is no requirement for course number 300 and above, however they are not excluded and can still receive GE attribution.
- An additional 3 cr. hr. of social and behavioral sciences are required. Students must select from 2 subject areas in this bucket.
Institutional Requirements (What we think can go into bucket #7)

• Institutional requirement of at least 3 GE cr. Hr. of diversity designated coursework has been added. These may be satisfied through the discipline specific requirements.
• There is no restriction of the amount of major or program requirements which can be applied to GE, but student must fulfill the two-subject requirement in buckets #5 and #6.
Does the University maintain its authority to approve individual courses for GenEd?

• Yes. We will continue to approve GE coursework following the existing GE process. We also have the authority to set the discipline for each approved course.
How will the diversity attribute be determined for GE courses?

• The GE committee recommends the formation of a standing diversity committee to review the diversity attribute for all courses including GE courses.
Conclusion

• The GenEd Committee has provided new GE policy which complies with the KBOR framework.
• In addition to the policy proposal, we have also provided:
  • Differences to the previous policy.
  • A FAQ to answer some of the most common questions.
  • Full listing of WSU GenEd courses divided into buckets.
  • Sample student programs.
Thank you.