

Requirements for General Education Pathway Certificate Programs

Purpose of Pathway Certificate Programs (from the General Education Program Proposal document, approved by CAPC in December 2016):

“In an effort to encourage more cross-disciplinary thinking, to provide students more opportunities for applying information and learning approaches across multiple disciplines, and to provide a cohesive approach to more easily integrate the General Education program within the goals of a degree program, faculty can work collaboratively to create 12-credit certificate programs for General Education pathways designed to address specific themes. These certificates will appear on student transcripts.”

Note: Completing a Pathway Certificate is optional and is not in lieu of any General Education requirement.

Requirements

1. Three of the four courses* (9 of the 12 credits) in a Pathway Certificate Program (PCP) must be general education courses with different prefixes.
2. PCPs must include three to five program goals and list at least two student learning outcomes (SLOs) per goal.
3. Courses to be included in PCPs need to provide evidence of how course SLOs will be assessed.

Recommendations

1. Instructors across courses in a particular pathway should strive to emphasize the connectivity of the goals within that pathway, helping students to link course learning objectives and activities to the broader theme.
2. Transferred courses can be used in pathways as long as the WCU equivalent course has been designated as a pathway course. Transferred courses that are not equivalent to an approved WCU pathway course can be petitioned through the usual process, including provision of adequate documentation of learning outcomes that meet those of the specific pathway.

* Why three (3) general education courses are required:

- A minimum of three courses supports Middle States’ recommendation for intentionality and connectedness for students in the general education experience.
- The flexibility to have one course come from major or minor programs provides opportunities for these programs to participate in the pathways, creating buy-in and possibilities to help students make connections between general and discipline-based learning goals.
- A mix of transferred (distributive) courses and program courses can enable transfer students to participate in pathway certificate programs.