



GENERAL EDUCATION REFORM

FALL 2024 UPDATE

OUR GOAL

To engage the campus community in a comprehensive general education review and reform process to envision and implement a program that prepares ODU graduates for **academic, professional, and civic life**.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A redesigned student-centered general education program can rejuvenate and inspire students, faculty, and the entire campus community.

General education must prepare ODU graduates for academic, professional, and civic life.

Everyone at ODU has a stake in general education.

Inclusion, collaboration, and transparency are essential to the success of the reform initiative and ultimately of the program.

This is an opportunity to celebrate what we do, be creative about what is possible, and establish a distinctive identity for general education at ODU.

WHAT HAVE WE HEARD?

Areas of Concern

- Lack of strong faculty support, less than ideal delivery of curriculum
- Outdated, complex curriculum that lacks cohesion
- Logistical and operational challenges
- Students feel it is pointless/meaningless

Areas of Excitement

- Creating a distinctly ODU experience
- Interdisciplinarity, first-year seminars, capstones, experiential learning
- Opportunity for better communication and support

"I had no idea until our first meeting that maybe gen ed review would be something more than just fighting over whose classes are to be included. It is really exciting to be in this reading group where we are delving deep into the purpose of gen ed, thinking about what students need from their classes, and discussing how best to achieve that end."

-- Ruth Triplett, Chair, Sociology and Criminal Justice

Executive Committee Members

Megan E. Corbett, Director, Assessment & Accreditation

Martha Daas, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Letters

Amy M. Johnson, AVP for Academic Success

Tatyana Lobova, Master Lecturer, Biology

Jenn Sloggie, Master Lecturer, English

Joshua Wallach, Associate Dean, College of Sciences

FALL 2024 OUTREACH, PLANNING, AND COMMUNICATION

- ✓ 6 College Welcome Back Events
- ✓ 14 Executive Meetings
- ✓ 27 Department Meetings
- ✓ 3 Open Forums, 200+ attendees
- ✓ 6 Reading Groups, 90+ participants
- ✓ 17 Mass Emails to Promote Initiative
- ✓ Participation Interest Survey
- ✓ Reform Website
- ✓ Input Form/Comment Box
- ✓ ODU Announcements and Media Coverage
- ✓ Digital Fliers Across Campus
- ✓ Plan spring committee and team meetings

NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE PLANS

Convene and charge the General Education Steering Committee

Identify student representatives

Recruit for spring working groups

Update website and improve communication

Establish centralized support for general education

Collect and create faculty support resources

Update forms and improve processes

Clarify the general education purpose and components

Continue to engage the campus community throughout the reform initiative

JANUARY 2025 EVENTS

Student Committee Info Session January 16, 12:30-1:30 via Zoom

Spring Reform Kickoff January 23, 12:30-1:30, Hampton/Newport News (Webb)

Reform Team Retreat - January 31, 2:00-5:00, Hampton/Newport News (Webb)

HAVE FEEDBACK OR WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

← [TAKE OUR FALL SURVEY!](#)



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<https://www.odu.edu/academics/gened>

