

ODUTM GENERAL EDUCATION REFORM



March 2025 Update

The Steering Committee is making significant progress on the General Education Reform Initiative. This spring, the Committee aims to develop comprehensive learning goals for the new general education program. To facilitate this, the Committee has established working groups that focus on specific areas of study, reflecting the diverse academic programs available on our campus. These working groups are helping to draft the learning goals and discuss how their respective areas of study align with them.

For more information about committee structure, click here.

HELP NAME THE NEW PROGRAM!

We want to give the new general education program a name! For example, GMU has the *Mason Core* and Virginia Tech has *Pathways*. We are looking for ideas that connect with the unique ODU experience while helping to highlight the value of general education. **[Share your ideas here!](#)**

In this issue:

Reform Timeline

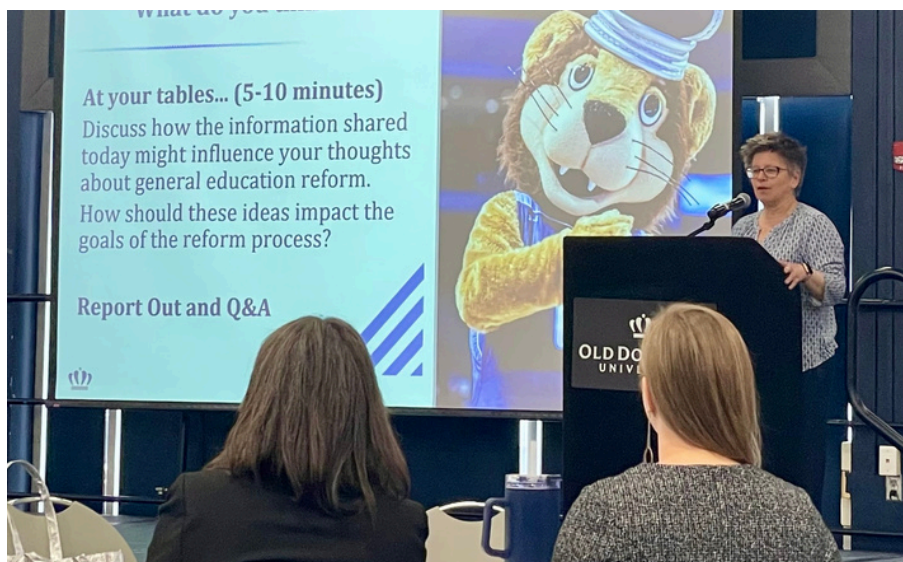
Team Member Spotlight

Campus Outreach

Spring'25 Highlights

Reform Reflections

Steering Committee Roster



Martha Daas, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters and Steering Committee Co-Chair, leads a discussion at the March 5 campus forum



Steering Committee Spotlight Dr. Orlando Ayala, Professor of Engineering Technology

“As an engineer, I believe General Education is essential in developing well-rounded individuals who can tackle society’s most pressing challenges. Engineering does not exist in isolation, it both influences and is influenced by society. General Education provides future engineers with valuable insights into human needs, values, and behaviors, which are crucial for designing solutions that truly benefit people. I am glad to see this Gen Ed reform taking place and to be a part of it.”

Reform Timeline

Year 1 (AY 23/24) – Planning, External Review

Year 2 (AY 24/25): Build Community, Develop and Recommend Program Learning Goals

Year 3 (AY 25/26): Goal: Develop and Recommend Structure & Student Learning Outcomes

Year 4 (AY 26/27): Goal: Pilot, Assess, Refine, and Seek Full Faculty Senate Approval

Year 5 (AY 27/28): Goal: Faculty and Course Development, Catalog and Schedule Revisions

**New program to launch with AY 28/29 catalog
with Faculty Senate approval.**

Steering Committee Spotlight

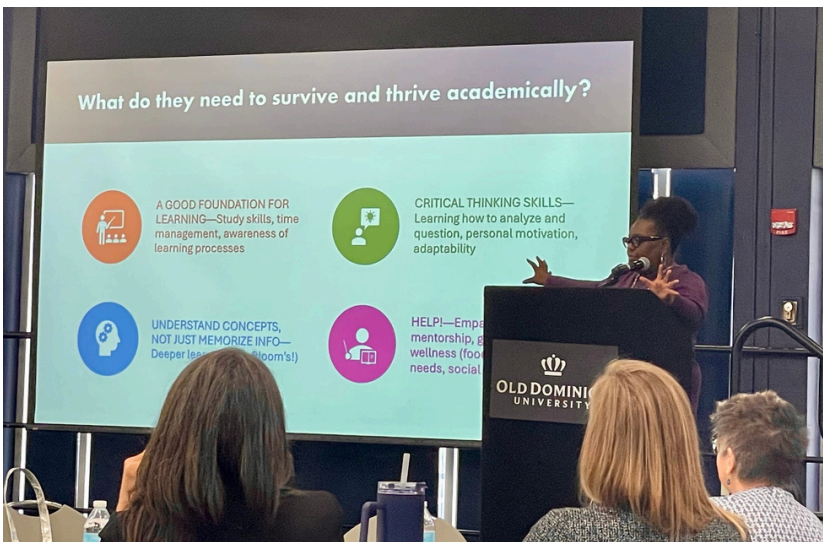
Dr. Brett Bebber, Associate Professor of History

“Brainstorming ideas with other people across the University about what we hope ODU students become through general education has been a very rewarding experience. It has been wonderful to think through all the ways each discipline contributes to the holistic education of our students and see how others imagine general education working with our unique student population.”



Campus Outreach

Our campus forum on March 5 focused on how the ODU student experience is shaping the General Education Reform process. Presenters Julie Perez, Director, Undergraduate Admissions; Remica Bingham-Risher, Director, QEP Initiatives; and Lanah Stafford, Director, High Impact Learning Initiatives; focused on who our students are, how they learn, and their first-year experience. More than 50 faculty and staff participated.



Reminca Bingham-Risher, QEP Director and a spring Working Group member, presenting on March 5 in Webb Center

Spring '25 Highlights & Next Steps

- **January** Kicked off the spring semester with a full team retreat and convened the Student Committee.
- **February** Formed a Student Committee to provide input on the reform efforts and help with student outreach and communication.
- **March** Held a campus forum focused on how the ODU student experience is shaping the general education reform process in person and via Zoom.
- **April** The Steering Committee submits recommended programmatic learning goals to Faculty Senate for input.
- **May** Multi-day full team retreat to onboard additional faculty members onto the Steering Committee and prepare for Year 3's work.

Steering Committee Roster

- Martha Daas, Assoc Dean, College of Arts & Letters - Co-Chair
- Joshua Wallach, Assoc Dean, College of Sciences - Co-Chair
- Aaron Arndt, Professor of Marketing
- Orlando Ayala, Professor of Engineering Technology
- Brett Bebbler, Associate Professor of History
- Dooyoung Choi, Associate Professor of Fashion Merchandising
- Matt Grau, Assistant Professor of Physics
- Travis Jones, Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Librarian
- Benjamin Melusky, Associate Professor of Political Science
- Megan Mize, Director of ePortfolio and Digital Initiatives
- Catherine Moss, Director of Retention and Special Populations, ODUGlobal
- Reneldo Randall, Director of Advising, Sciences
- Lanah Stafford, Director of High Impact Learning Initiatives
- Barbara Kraj, Associate Dean, Ellmer College of Health Sciences
- Jeff LaCombe, Associate Dean, Batten College of Engineering and Technology

With support from Executive Committee members Megan Corbett (Director of Assessment), Amy Johnson (AVP for Academic Success), Tatyana Lobova (Gen Ed Reform Policy and Process Specialist), and Jenn Sloggie (Gen Ed Reform Administrative Lead)



Joshua Wallach, Associate Dean of the College of Sciences and Steering Committee Co-Chair, at the March 5 campus forum

See the Working Group topics and rosters here.

**Contact a member
of the Steering
Committee and
invite us to your
department or
program meeting!**

Get involved!

You can read more about our fall 2024 progress [here](#). Visit our [website](#) for updated resources and other information or email GenEd@odu.edu with questions and ideas!