



# ODU<sup>TM</sup>

## GENERAL EDUCATION REFORM



## April 2025 Update

As we wrap up the academic year, we are excited to share the progress we have made and the steps we plan to take next on the General Education Reform journey at ODU. [Visit our website](#) for previous updates, readings and resources, and other information or email [GenEd@odu.edu](mailto:GenEd@odu.edu) with questions and ideas.

## In this issue:

**Name the Program**  
**Team Member Spotlights**  
**April Accomplishments**  
**New Committee Rosters**  
**Reform Timeline**

## HELP NAME THE NEW PROGRAM!

*Monarch Foundations? Mane Ideas? Blue Prints?* These are just a few of the suggestions that have come in since our March newsletter. Do you have an idea for what we might call the new general education program? We are looking for names that connect with the unique ODU experience while helping to highlight the value of general education. We plan to hold a campus vote to help choose the new program name in early fall.

**[Share your ideas here!](#)**



Jeffrey LaCombe, Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Education, Batten College of Engineering and Technology, and Ash F. J. Thomas, sophomore English major and *Mace and Crown* Arts & Entertainment Editor, discuss learning goals.

## Student Team Member Spotlight

Abigail Berardi, Sophomore, Electrical and Computer Engineering: Modeling and Simulation

“By recognizing and valuing students’ prior knowledge and unique experiences, this reform can create a more flexible, meaningful, and accessible education system that truly supports student success. I will be graduating the same year this program is implemented, so while I won’t personally benefit from the changes, I’m grateful to be part of the process and hope to make a meaningful impact on future generations of students.”



## Refining Our Learning Goals

The Steering Committee reviewed the Working Group reports, identified the most common themes, and proposed these five broad learning goals:

- **Inquiry and Research**
- **Reasoning and Problem-Solving**
- **Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility**
- **Communication and Expression**
- **Reflection and Lifelong Learning**

We shared these goals with Faculty Senate, who appreciated the steps taken this year and supported our plan for the next phase of the reform process.



Faculty and staff discuss programmatic learning goals at the General Education Reform Full Team meeting on April 18.

## April Accomplishments

- **April 5:** Working Groups submitted reports
- **April 7:** Steering Committee met to begin drafting broad learning goals for the new general education program.
- **April 14:** Steering Committee met to refine the draft learning goals.
- **April 18:** General Education Reform Full Team met to provide feedback on the draft learning goals.
- **April 18:** Faculty Senate Committee A reviewed the draft learning goals and provided feedback.
- **April 21:** Steering Committee heard Committee A feedback and refined learning goals.
- **April 22:** The draft learning goals were presented to Faculty Senate for input.

## Looking Ahead...

In mid-May, Faculty and Operations Committees will meet for a full team retreat to onboard additional members and begin planning for the coming year’s work. AY 25/26 tasks include: recommending curriculum revisions, developing learning outcomes, exploring possible frameworks and requirements, and proposing solutions to address the challenges identified by external reviewers.





## Student Team Member Spotlight

### Spencer Peloquin, Junior, Computer Science, ODU Global

“As a computer science major, I see general education as a key facet of the post-secondary experience—more than just a requirement, it is the difference between simply earning a degree and developing an intellectual foundation. At ODU, general education provided a breadth of courses that challenged my perceptions and sharpened my critical thinking. These experiences have resulted in me becoming stronger in my major, proving that a well-rounded education enhances technical expertise. My role in the GenEd Reform [team] reflects my conviction that general education is vital and beneficial for all students.”

## AY 25/26 Faculty Committee (curriculum and outcomes)

- 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
- \*Kyle Davis, Senior Lecturer of Exercise Science
- \*Peter Eudenbach, Professor of Art
- Matt Grau, Assistant Professor of Physics
- \*Janice Hawkins, Assistant Professor of Nursing
- Travis Jones, Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Librarian
- Barbara Kraj, Associate Dean, Elmer College of Health Sciences
- Jeff LaCombe, Associate Dean, Batten College of Engineering and Technology
- Benjamin Melusky, Associate Professor of Political Science
- \*Suzanne Morrow, Master Lecturer of Psychology
- \*Anders Nolan, Senior Lecturer of English
- \*Paige O'Shaughnessy, Senior Lecturer of Accountancy
- \*Tony Perez, Associate Professor of STEM Education and Professional Studies
- \*Lucinda “Lucy” Wittkower, Head of Libraries Education and Assessment
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*With support from Executive Committee members Megan Corbett (Director of Assessment), Amy Johnson (AVP for Academic Success), Tatyana Lobova (Master Lecturer of Biology and Gen Ed Reform Policy and Process Specialist), and Jenn Sloggie (Master Lecturer of English and Gen Ed Reform Administrative Lead)*

\*denotes new member for AY 25/26

# AY 25/26 Operations Committee (strategic guidance)

- Remica Bingham-Risher, Director Quality Enhancement Plan Initiatives
- Tania Black, Director of Transfer Initiatives and Transfer Center
- Kellie Crawford-Sorey, Assistant VP for Strategic Enrollment Management
- Annette Finley-Croswhite, Prof of History and Dir of Center for Faculty Development
- Kenyon Gannon, Executive Director of Digital Learning Programs
- Carrie John, Associate Vice Provost and University Registrar
- Susan Kenter, Chief of Staff and Associate VP for Strategic Initiatives
- Megan Mize, Director of ePortfolio and Digital Initiatives
- Catherine Moss, Director of Retention and Special Populations, ODUGlobal
- Julie Perez, Director of Undergraduate Admissions
- Kala Perkins-Holtsclaw, Vice Dean, Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences
- Karen Sanzo, Executive Director, Center for Educational Innovation and Opportunity
- Lanah Stafford, Director of High Impact Learning Initiatives
- Leanne White, Director of Advising, Ellmer College of Health Sciences

*Representatives from additional partner offices may join this committee in the coming year to contribute to the reform process and provide strategic guidance to the Faculty Committee.*

## General Education 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.***

## Keep Up With Our Progress!

Visit [our website](#) to read more about our AY 24/25 accomplishments, explore readings and resources on general education, and learn about upcoming events. You can always email [GenEd@odu.edu](mailto:GenEd@odu.edu) with questions, requests for visits to your program, and to share your ideas.