

ODUTM

GENERAL EDUCATION REFORM



September 2025 Update

Since September 2024, we have developed a community of practice around general education that includes around 200 faculty, staff, administrators, and students. Together, we are exploring options for the future of ODU general education. This is no time for a tweak; we are reimagining what is possible at ODU. We are so excited to show the campus community the results of our hard work!

In this issue:

Model Showcase

Student Voices

Team Member Spotlight

What's possible?

OCTOBER MODEL SHOWCASE EVENTS

October 3 : Gen Ed Webinar 12:00-1:00 PM via Zoom Introduction to three potential general education curricular models. Each model shares common elements to make the gen ed more intentional and meaningful to students, while offering various options for the courses in the required core.

October 7: Model Showcase Launch 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM in the Executive Dining Room
Posters for each model will be on display, and members of the reform committees will be on hand to answer questions and collect feedback. Light refreshments provided.

*The model posters will travel to various locations around campus after the launch.
Email us to schedule a showcase in your area and check [our website](#) for pop up locations and times throughout the month of October.*

"General education courses at ODU have helped me strengthen my communication and leadership skills, which I've been able to apply both in the classroom and through my involvement on campus. I think the reform initiative is a great opportunity to make these courses even more meaningful and connected to students' future goals."

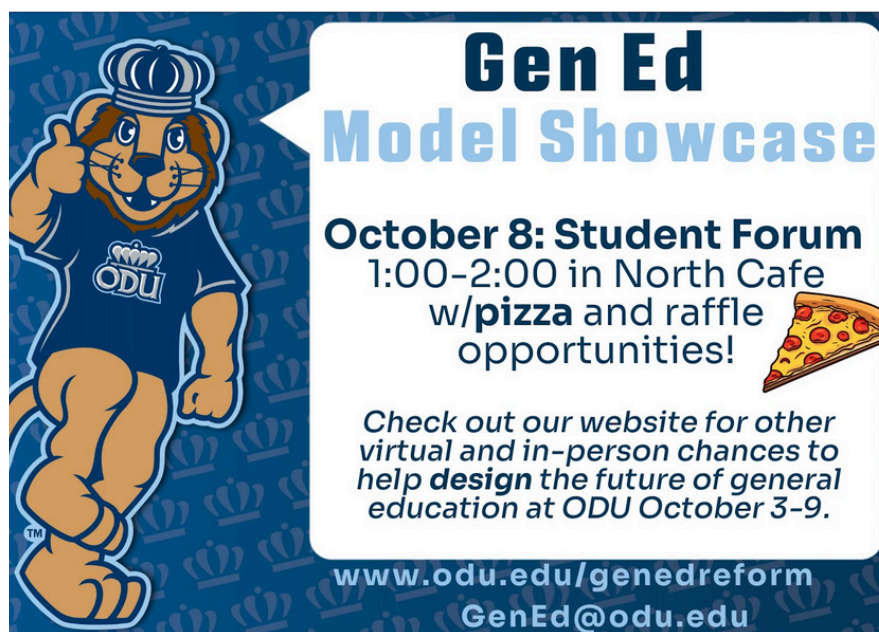
- Isabel Hipolito, Director of Public Relations & Recruitment, ODU Student Government Association & Senior, Strategic Communications/Public Relations

Student Voices in General Education Reform

Student input is important to the reform process. This month, we presented to the Student Government Association (SGA) to promote our upcoming Model Showcase and to learn how best to solicit student feedback.

The SGA is partnering with us to offer a Model Showcase for students on October 8, from 1:00-2:00 in North Cafe. There will be free pizza and chances at raffle prizes.

Tell your students about it!



**Gen Ed
Model Showcase**

October 8: Student Forum
1:00-2:00 in North Cafe
w/**pizza** and raffle
opportunities!

*Check out our website for other
virtual and in-person chances to
help **design** the future of general
education at ODU October 3-9.*

www.odu.edu/genedreform
GenEd@odu.edu



SGA Officers Isabel Hipolito and Jasmine Johnson promoting general education reform events to students in Webb Center during Activity Hour

"General Education Reform is essential to the future of upcoming ODU students. It will ensure that all students receive the most impactful degree program that will ensure career-readiness. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the General Education Reform Team. Their dedication, commitment, and hard work are admirable. It has been a truly valuable experience!"

Jasmine Johnson, Director of Administrative Affairs, ODU Student Government Association & Sophomore, Political Science and Philosophy

Committee Member Spotlight

Megan Mize, Director of ePortfolios and Digital Initiatives, Academic Success Initiatives

“What’s been most rewarding about working on General Education Reform is that the process itself has modeled the very outcomes we hope to see in our students: collaboration, disciplinary integration, and deep reflection. The productive debates are a testament to how much we all care about our students' growth and success.”



What's possible in general education?

One of the many things the Reform Committee has been discussing is the role of **Experiential Learning** in general education. Experiential Learning is active/hands-on learning plus meaningful reflection on the process. It can include activities like undergraduate research, study abroad, internships and work-based learning, and civic and community engagement. Students who engage in Experiential Learning often receive better grades, learn the subject at a deeper level, and report feeling more confident in their abilities. More than 70% of ODU students already engage in some kind of active learning experience that could be considered Experiential Learning with the incorporation of guided reflection.

It can be life changing to study abroad, participate in service learning, conduct research with a faculty member, or complete an internship. [...] As a result, students better understand themselves in relation to others and the larger world, and they acquire the intellectual tools and ethical grounding to act with confidence for the betterment of the human condition.

– George D. Kuh, *High Impact Educational Practices*

Looking Ahead...

This month, we are gathering input on the Learning Goals and Models via surveys, focus groups, and visits to departments, offices, and organizations. **Look for an invitation to a Town Hall later this semester.** Based on campus feedback, we will advance one or two models to the Faculty Senate for review in the spring. We have also launched a search for our first Director of General Education. Applications are due to search committee chair Josh Wallach by October 1. The position begins in January 2026.

Keep Up With Our Progress!

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