

Approved by Faculty Senate by unanimous vote, 10-4-18

## **UWL General Education: Mission Statement**

General Education (GE) is a common experience that fulfills UWL's vision as a student-centered university committed to a quality liberal arts education for the whole person. The program aligns with national best practices to ensure that UWL graduates develop: habits of mind essential for fostering intellectual curiosity, personal development, and professional success; creative and critical thinking; and foundations for ethical decision making. The program supports integrative learning, and prepares students for civic engagement, leadership, and global stewardship. The program provides opportunities for students to work with peers and instructors from disciplines that complement their major field of study, preparing them for a work force that increasingly relies upon team work and interaction with people from diverse backgrounds. The program also demonstrates UWL's commitment to the Wisconsin Idea, in which our socially responsible campus serves as a resource for our intertwined local, state, and global communities, collaborating and sharing resources and expertise to improve the human condition.

### **Program Goals**

#### **Model interdisciplinary approaches of critical thinking to shape and inform a student's major course of study.**

- Place foundational knowledge in larger contexts so that every GE course demonstrates the importance of a liberal arts education for the development of the whole person.
- Help students understand the value of the discipline being studied as well as its relationship to academic majors.
- Use tools of inquiry from multiple perspectives to develop and address questions that encourage intellectual curiosity and seek to improve the human condition.
- Develop creative and critical thinkers who engage in ethical and rational decision making in their chosen discipline.

#### **Connect campus and academic life to local, regional, national, and/or international communities.**

- Promote opportunities for civic engagement and leadership that are academically grounded and socially responsible to prepare students for their intellectual and professional lives.
- Educate students to draw upon multiple disciplines and cultural viewpoints as they collaboratively participate in a pluralistic society.
- Cultivate an understanding of, and engagement with, complex interdependent global systems to enable students to recognize themselves as stewards of the world.

#### **Maintain a dynamic GE program to keep pace with the needs of ever-changing global networks.**

- Support opportunities for cross-disciplinary teaching and learning to promote GE courses as interrelated.
- Model and encourage dispositions that generate lifelong learners who value innovation, flexibility, and adaptability.
- Ensure that the GE program aligns with best practices and continues to be effective, relevant, and transferable among UW-System schools through regular program-level review and reflection.