

Faculty Senate Committee on General Education
AY 2020-2021
Progress Report
William E. Kelso, Chair

The General Education (GE) program at LSU has been since its inception a distributional program whereby students take a 39-hour block of courses that gives them a content-based breadth of experiences in English Composition, Mathematics/Analytical Reasoning, Fine Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social/Behavioral Sciences. The renamed Integrative Learning Core (ILC) program was designed to expand the GE program by incorporating proficiencies (chosen from the AAC&U VALUE rubrics based on the results of numerous employer-based surveys of strengths and weaknesses of U.S. college graduates) that would enhance development of student knowledge and skills in critical thinking, civic engagement, ethical reasoning, global learning, intercultural knowledge and competence, inquiry and analysis, oral communication, problem solving, quantitative literacy, and written communication. It was clear at the beginning 2017-18 that the original wishes of the committee (which stemmed, in part, from previous discussions by the Strategic Planning Committee for General Education) regarding the structure of the ILC program, i.e., a 6-area GE by 10-proficiency ILC matrix that students would complete during their 39-hour program, was simply not feasible. This required a refocusing of efforts to try and develop an ILC program that could: 1) be implemented within the current General Education system; 2) be assessed more easily than the previous General Education program but would still yield meaningful data; 3) expose students to as many proficiencies as possible during their 39-hour program; and 4) improve student knowledge of, appreciation of, and basic competence in, proficiencies chosen by the ILC committee.

The committee made important progress during the 2020-21 AY in implementing the ILC program at LSU. Important accomplishments included:

1. We implemented an ILC feedback survey to obtain information from ILC course proposers regarding the structure and the content of the proposal form. Many of the ideas suggested by the respondents have subsequently been incorporated into a second major revision of the online course proposal form. We hosted two town hall meetings with concerned faculty regarding the ILC process, with discussions focusing on the depth and complexity of the proposal form and how it could be altered to be more effective. These discussions resulted in significant changes in the structure of the proposal form, and a reduction in the number of required dimensions from three to one. The proposal form was streamlined to make it clearer what the committee was looking for, and additional resources relating to assessment instruments were also developed to simplify the process. The Qualtrics format for submitting proposals was eliminated, and the website is being updated to reflect changes to ILC policies and procedures. We opened the ILC meetings to the faculty at large, and several faculty members joined the zoom meetings we had in the spring. Overall, faculty groups appear to be supportive of the changes implemented to date, and we hope to have significant numbers of proposals being submitted to the committee over the summer and during fall 2021. All courses that intend to be included in the ILC program need to be submitted by December 30, 2021 and approved by the committee before February 15, 2022.

2. Committee procedures: The ILC Committee also drafted a new change form and approval procedures for already-approved courses that wish to assess only one or two dimensions of the selected proficiency instead of the three dimensions specified in the original proposal. This form has already been submitted for several courses and appears to work well.

3. Course submissions: The ILC Committee approved 58 courses prior to the beginning of the 2020-21 AY. During this year, 14 additional courses were approved, 11 courses are pending review, 153 courses are past the date they were due for their 5-year review, and 45 additional courses are scheduled for their 5-year review this fall. The slow pace of course submissions has been due to many faculty members waiting to submit courses until the revisions to the proposal document were completed. The ILC committee will continue to meet bi-weekly this summer to process as many proposals as possible, and we have contacted colleges regarding the need to get ILC courses submitted as soon as possible. By BOR area, the 72 currently approved courses include [Note: Honors courses can chose more than one BOR area]:

- English (ENG) = .33
- Fine Arts (FA) = 5
- Humanities (HUM) = 19.83
- Mathematical/Analytical Reasoning (M/AR) = 8
- Natural Science (NS) = 17
- Social/Behavioral Sciences (S/BS) = 21.83

By ILC Proficiency, the 72 currently approved courses include:

- Civic engagement (CE) = 1
- Ethical reasoning (ER) = 2
- Global learning (GL) = 18
- Intercultural knowledge and competence (IKC) = 16
- Inquiry and analysis (IA) = 23
- Problem solving (PS) = 0
- Quantitative & Formal Reasoning (QFR) = 9
- Oral communication (OC) = 2
- Written communication (WC) = 1

As results of the ILC course-approval process shows, students will likely have several opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in Global Learning, Intercultural Knowledge and Competence, and Inquiry and Analysis. Other proficiencies, however, have so far not been adopted by many courses. As we get more courses approved, the ILC committee will track the number of courses that have adopted proficiencies, and suggest (not require) alternative proficiencies during future course re-approvals, where appropriate, to broaden the diversity of available ILC proficiencies.

4. Student petitions: The committee received 7 petitions from students wishing to substitute a non-GenEd course for a GenEd requirement. We approved 6 of these as students had received incorrect advising when course schedules were being made, or the status of GenEd courses had changed. We denied 1 of these petitions because the student had neglected to complete the GenEd requirements and was trying to avoid taking an additional course.

5. Committee membership: Based on discussions with faculty members at the two forums, we requested and received permission from the Faculty Senate ExCom to increase membership on the ILC committee. Subsequent to approval of that request, we were allowed to expand the committee to 16, mostly to include members from previously non-represented academic areas (e.g., both physical and biological representatives from natural science); current membership on the committee is as follows:

2020-2021 ILC Membership

Last Name	First Name	College/Office	Email Address	Term End Month/Date
<u>Voting Members</u>				
Aly	Aly	Engineering	aly@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Barton	Michael	Humanities & Social Sciences - Social/Behavioral Sciences	mbarto3@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Bhattacharyya	Nabanita	Science - Natural Science (Life)	nbhatt3@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Blanchard	Joy	Human Sciences & Education	jblanchard@lsu.edu	August 15, 2023
Butts	Jimmy	Humanities & Social Sciences - English Composition	jbutts@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Glaspie	Cassie	Coast & Environment	cglaspie1@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Holt	Danny	Business	dholt@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Kazuschyk	Kyla	Music & Dramatic Arts - Theatre	kkazuschyk@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Kelso (Chair)	Bill	Agriculture	wkello@lsu.edu	August 15, 2023
Ostrenko	Derick	Art & Design	dostrenko@lsu.edu	August 15, 2023
Protevi	John	Honors College	protevi@lsu.edu	August 15, 2023
Rouse	Pheobe	Science - Math	prouse@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Veldman	Meredith	Humanities & Social Sciences - Humanities	hyveld@lsu.edu	August 15, 2023
West	Justin	Music & Dramatic Arts - Music	west1@lsu.edu	August 15, 2022
Yang	Chun	Mass Communication	cyang10@lsu.edu	August 15, 2023
Recommendation		Science - Natural Science (Physical)		
<u>Ex officio Members</u>				
Recommendation	After Implementation	Student Representative		
Benton	Clay	Registrar	cbenton@lsu.edu	N/A
Lee	Matt	Academic Affairs	mlee@lsu.edu	N/A
Rose	Tara	Office of Institutional Effectiveness	trose@lsu.edu	N/A

Faculty Senate Integrative Learning Core Committee Plans for AY 2021-2022

1. All of the efforts of the ILC Committee during the upcoming year will be devoted to soliciting and facilitating submission and approval of ILC courses. We still have well over 200 GenEd courses that need to be submitted to the ILC committee; with the newly revised ILC course proposal/process and the ongoing communication and status updates to Deans and Associate Deans, we feel that the submission process should go smoothly over the next year.
2. We have nine members whose terms on the ILC will be expiring in 2022. These members and any others needing replacement will be forwarded to the FSEC by the end of the academic year.
3. We will continue to review the charge and operating procedures of the committee as more proposals come forward.

The FSILC Committee voted Dr. John Protevi as Chair for the upcoming 2021-22 academic year.