



*Source: Trends and Emerging Practices in General Education (May 2009), Based on a Survey Among Members of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, Conducted by Hart Research Associates*

In addition, the GETF was mindful of the economic realities of the cost of higher education and the importance for the university to become a preferred destination for all students, especially those transfer students from our signatory partners.

With due diligence, the GETF has shared the progress of this review and the development of our proposal for a reinvigorated liberal education at Fontbonne in a variety of ways:

- Minutes of our meetings and notes from various presentations made available on [http://griffinnet.fontbonne.edu/ICS/Info\\_Center/General\\_Education\\_Task\\_Force/](http://griffinnet.fontbonne.edu/ICS/Info_Center/General_Education_Task_Force/)
- Faculty Workshops: 12/2/09, 10/8/10, and 12/7/10
- Faculty Forums: 2/24/10 and 3/2/11
- Dean's Forum: 3/31/10
- Academic Council Meetings: 8/19/10, 1/24/11, and 2/21/11
- Community College Breakfasts: 11/6/09 and 11/5/10

In addition, we sought faculty input through “brown bag” meetings (3/23 to 3/24/10), a student survey (spring 2010), and meetings with department chairs and deans, individually, throughout the summer and fall of 2010.

Early on, the GETF presented two models (A & B) at the February 2010 Faculty Forum. After thorough vetting by campus constituencies and in response to faculty receptiveness toward the focus on Fontbonne's mission, we focused our efforts in the development of our proposed model: Culture and the Common Good.

Therefore, after much research and deliberation by the General Education Task Force, and in response to and with cooperation from members of the Fontbonne community, particularly its faculty, we respectfully wish to propose the following model:

### **Culture and the Common Good: A Mission-Centered Liberal Education at Fontbonne**

#### **This proposed structure of general education:**

- Focuses on state goals to broaden the range of courses offered at all levels, thereby increasing the flexibility to accommodate more transfer credit
- Connects all students (traditional, OPTIONS, Pathways) of the university through a common core that integrates our mission into the curriculum and highlights our distinctiveness in a marketable way
- Brings disparate parts of the university (Dedicated Semester, service learning, study abroad, Writing Across the Curriculum, Honors Program, and others) into a unified curricular-whole via “high-impact practices,” pedagogies that have been associated at other institutions with increased student engagement and retention

- Promotes academic rigor with particular emphasis on writing skills as well as requiring at least a C- in all courses within Culture and the Common Good
- Provides invigorating opportunities for the honors program
- Invigorates the faculty to think about their curricula in new ways and invites collaboration without mandating it
- Prioritizes the concerns of global citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Throughout the process, the GETF has worked closely with the faculty. Together, we have accomplished our “charge” and created a structure that provides for a new and invigorating curriculum that allows for change as necessary to meet the demands of our students’ needs as they prepare for citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Proposed Date of Implementation:** Fall 2012

**Projected Enrollment:** All incoming students beginning fall 2012

**Financial Impact (describe/list projected amounts):**

- **Faculty**  
This general education plan will result in no net change in faculty expenses. There will be a reduction in the number of sections required in the Pillars category, but will be offset by the additional sections needed in Mission Core I and II.
- **New Library Holdings**
- **Equipment**
- **Audio-visual / software**

**Effect on currently enrolled students:** None; they will follow the current structure.

**Does the proposed program replace an existing one?** Yes, the current General Education Requirements dated 3/09.

**New Program Objectives/Outcomes:**

Included in the above rationale

**Course Listings for New Program:**

List all courses required for the new program. Include course number/title and credit hours for each course. If new courses are being proposed, please complete the Motion to Modify, Add, or Drop a Course Form for each course.

**Existing Courses**

**Credit Hours**

**New Courses**

**Credit Hours**

**Does this new program affect another department/college?**  YES  NO

**If yes, has this department/college approved of this new program?**

**Additional information:**

Please see attached addendum for procedural suggestions.

If approved, distribute to the following:

- Catalog
- Registrar
- Fontbonne Policy Manual Volume I
- Advisors' Manual
- Student Handbook
- Part-time Faculty Manual
- Staff Handbook
- Other:

**Please note, all forms must be submitted to UCC by the Department Chair/College Dean.**

**ADDENDUM****Proposed Procedure: Adoption of Courses to Culture and the Common Good**

1) That unmodified, untagged current GER courses are adopted without further consideration by UCC or FGA to facilitate the implementation of the new structure.

Through spring 2011.

2) That newly tagged, current GER courses will be reviewed by the General Education Task Force and submitted as "modified" to UCC for adoption. No further action is necessary by FGA.

Transition period: Fall 2011-Spring 2012 and beyond

3) That new GER courses, tagged or otherwise, are reviewed by the UCC for approval before getting FGA approval.

**Proposed Procedure Regarding Amendments/Appeals regarding Culture and the Common Good**

- It is proposed that a subcommittee (light-load) of UCC is created that will assist with issues arising in the new structure
  - For example:
    - GER credit for transfer courses
    - Criteria review for tag considerations
    - Case by case considerations for exceptional students
    - Review of curriculum guide sheets (regarding GER only)
- Proposed to include the following:
  - Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Director of Transfer Recruitment (non-voting), Director of Academic Advising, 3 faculty members each representing one college-one of three is a member of UCC, and one mission core faculty member