

Purpose of General Education Outcomes

As a result of the last University of Maine accreditation in 2009, the accrediting agency, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), in an action letter to President Kennedy required that an assessment process be developed for the University of Maine general education program. Interim reports on the progress of the assessment are due to NEASC in 2012 and 2014. President Kennedy asked the Faculty Senate to form a committee, the General Education Committee with Tina Passman of Modern Languages & Classics as chair, to address this requirement.

To assess the achievement of the general education program, the anticipated outcomes for each category must be indicated. Based upon the description of the general education categories from the General Education Guidelines ratified by the Senate in 1996, the General Education Committee with consultation to other faculty has prepared a draft of anticipated outcomes for each general education category. The outcomes for a particular category are intended to apply to every course in that particular general education category.

For two General Education categories, Ethics and Population & the Environment, the descriptions were streamlined as well as outcomes prepared. The category Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives has been renamed to Cultural Diversity or International Perspectives to reflect possible courses with cultural diversity emphasis without International perspectives. All other descriptions are the same as those adopted in 1996.

The general education descriptions with outcomes added for each general education category are presented in the form of a motion to be presented to the Senate for adoption. These will replace the current descriptions as given by the General Education Guidelines ratified by the Senate in 1996.