

**MEREDITH COLLEGE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM Fall 2009**  
**APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR SIGNATURE PERSPECTIVES COURSES**

**Criteria for Approval of Course Designations**

1. **Directly and Concretely Address the Category's Learning Outcomes.** The course syllabus must show that the course addresses the three *course-level* learning outcomes common to all courses in the designation. These learning outcomes will bear a direct and clear relation to the recently approved general education *program* outcomes (Nov. 2008). "Demonstrate" means that some of the course activities—texts, assignments, projects, and so on, will clearly address the general education course-level outcomes and that these outcomes will be stated in the syllabus.
2. **Commit to and Enact Learning Outcome Assessment.** Participating departments will commit to the following assessment process. All instructors teaching the designation will participate in direct assessment of one learning outcome each year—approximately half the instructors in the fall semester and half in the spring. Department- or school-level assessment liaisons who teach in the designation will be appointed by departments or schools. These liaison instructors will meet as a group—approximately three to four times per semester— to discuss, develop, and maintain a common set of standards (perhaps in rubric form) to be used to assess the specified course-level gen ed learning outcomes. The assessment standards will be developed in consultation with the Director of Research, Planning, & Assessment. Liaisons will, in essence, teach the use of the assessment standards to departmental or school colleagues who are also instructors in the given designation.

**Learning Outcomes**

*U.S. Perspectives Courses*

1. Students will examine how diverse cultures have shaped significant ideas, ideals, and values of U.S. society.
2. Students will analyze the complexities of U.S. cultural experience(s) through relevant disciplinary methods of interpretation.
3. Students will express their knowledge of an important U.S. cultural issue through written work, presentation, or artistic production.

*Global Perspectives Courses*

1. Students will analyze at least one global issue with current implications using a variety of perspectives and methods.
2. Students will compare how different world cultures respond to at least one global issue.
3. Students will express their knowledge of the global issue through written work, presentation, or artistic production.

Learning outcomes for *Ethical Perspectives Courses* will be developed in the fall 2009.

### Application Documents

An application cover sheet for "U.S.," "GP," and "EP" will be on-line at the *Faculty/ Advisor* page of the general education website. Required for submission will be

1. the application cover sheet, signed by the department head and the director of general education (hard copy submissions),
2. an application form, and
3. a course syllabus stating general education learning outcomes with **highlighted** course activities that clearly and directly address the learning outcomes.  
(#s 2 and 3 will be electronic submissions). **Please specify** which learning outcome is addressed by the particular chosen activities.

### Mechanics

1. **Body for Application Review and Approval.** The general education committee will consider, suggest revisions if needed, and approve applications for the course designations of U.S. Perspectives (US), Global Perspectives (GP), and Ethical Perspectives (EP).
2. **Eligibility.** All departments are eligible to apply for all three course designations.
3. **Public Communication.** Designations will appear with course descriptions in the catalogue, and designated courses will be posted on the general education web site.
4. **Maintenance-Oversight.** Once a course is approved for a designation, it will be the responsibility of the department head in consultation with the office of general education to maintain adherence to the criteria and shared learning outcomes of the given designation.
5. **Assessment and Reporting.** Common learning outcome assessment standards will be developed and used by faculty teaching the particular designation. Individual section assessment results will be reported to the office of general education by the course instructor. Learning outcome assessment results will be aggregated by signature category and reported to the college by the office of general education in its annual report. The general education committee will periodically review aggregated assessment data on all designated courses.
6. **Revision of Learning Outcomes.** After all the shared learning outcomes of each designation have been assessed (after 3-4 full semesters of assessment) teaching faculty in each designation may propose changes in learning outcomes. Changes must be approved by the general education committee and Academic Council.

### **Time Constraints—2009-10**

For newly designated US and GP courses to be available for students in spring 2010, faculty and departments should submit courses to the general education committee no later than September 16, 2009. This deadline gives the general education committee enough time assess and approve courses well before the October 16 deadline of the Registrar's Office, by which date all new course designations

for the spring semester must be submitted. Pre-registration for spring 2010 begins on November 9.