

# GENERAL EDUCATION NEWS

Vol. 6 Issue 1

Tucson, AZ

August 31, 2021

## Welcome Back, Wildcats!

The Fall Semester is here and with it, the August 2021 edition of the General Education (GE) Newsletter! My name is Ryan Winet, Director of Communication for the Office of General Education. Elaine Marchello, who wrote and published this newsletter for six years, has graciously handed the baton off to me.

Though the look of the Newsletter has changed, I am dedicated to making sure that the mission and spirit of the Newsletter remains the same: Providing our campus-wide community of readers with updates and friendly tips about all matters involving General Education.

## New Website, New Look

### Website

The new GE program now has its own website: [ge.arizona.edu](http://ge.arizona.edu). The website provides instructors and advisors with information, resources, and upcoming events. Additional student-facing elements will be added over the course of the Fall semester.

### Newsletter New Look

The Newsletter is one long document and is ideal for scrolling. To learn more about any of the articles, click on the headline and you will be directed to a News Item on our new website with additional information, links, and contact information.

## New GE Program Will Soft Launch In Spring 2022!

The new General Education (GE) program will soft launch in Spring 2022, initially serving Spring 2022 matriculants. The current Tiers General Education program and the new program will operate in parallel for several years until the Tiers program is phased out.

The new GE program emphasizes interdisciplinary thinking, perspective-taking, and reflection. For more information about the new GE program, including resources for instructors, please visit the website: [ge.arizona.edu](http://ge.arizona.edu)!

## Instructor Support Programs

The Office of General Education (OGE) and the Office of Instruction and Assessment (OIA) are offering many exciting programs this semester, including Quick Start, Deep Dives, and ePortfolio Coffee Chats!

### Quick Start Programs

For instructors whose courses have been nominated by their Associate Dean to propose a course in the new GE, the Quick Start Programs are scheduled to run every month of the semester. To enroll, please contact Dr. Katie Southard ([ksouthard@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ksouthard@email.arizona.edu)).

### Deep Dive Sessions

Instructors can also look forward to another season of Deep Dive Sessions, one hour webinars that cover topics relevant to GE instructors. Registration is required.

### ePortfolio Coffee Chats

Come drink coffee and learn about ePortfolios in a welcoming pedagogically focused community. All take place on Fridays from 10-11:00 in the Main Library and will be offered in a hybrid format.



*Deep Dive Sessions are just one of several Instructor Support Programs offered by OGE and OIA.*

## OIA & You!

The staff at the Office of Instruction and Assessment (OIA) take great pride in providing exceptional resources and support to all those engaged in instructional activities at The University of Arizona. Our professional staff can help with pedagogical planning and curricular design, instructional technologies, multimedia and website design, and course and student assessment.

We work with instructors to develop all aspects of the instructional process. We help instructors explore and apply learning-centered teaching practices, select appropriate technologies that enhance the instructional process, and develop effective assessment and evaluation strategies.

We work collaboratively with instructors to create engaging and innovative learning environments for students in both the classroom and online. We help instructors think creatively about teaching practices and instructional objectives and help them turn their ideas into realities.

### Teaching Models Website

OIA is excited to support instructors planning for various teaching modalities in Fall 2021 with the Teaching Models website.



*Wilbur performs Hamlet's famous soliloquy in a Exploring Perspectives: Humanist course. The new GE emphasizes interdisciplinary thinking, perspective-taking, and reflection.*

## Seeking Volunteer Instructors for Writing Study

Do you assign a meaningful writing project in a course that serves juniors and seniors? If so, then connect with Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) at the University of Arizona!

During the 2021-22 academic year, UArizona is participating in a wide-reaching assessment of student writing in partnership with Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University.

As part of a statewide working group, Aimee Mapes, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, and Elaine Marchello, Director of Assessment in General Education, have designed a tri-university assessment of student writing.



The first of its kind for Arizona, this assessment will provide a descriptive account of undergraduate student writing at the three state universities. Our goal is to showcase strengths in student writing while also identifying areas of need to better support writing across the curriculum. We will collect over 700 student writing artifacts this year.

## Teaching & Tech Tips

### WHAT STRATEGIES WORK IN PANDEMIC TEACHING?

Last spring, a survey was sent out to faculty asking them about their online teaching experiences. One of the questions had some interesting feedback that we wanted to share. Here are some of the more common answers to the question: What strategies have worked best in your pandemic teaching?

### WHAT TO DO ABOUT TECH IN THE FALL SEMESTER

Recent scholarship shows that students are not nearly as comfortable with technology on campus as we thought. What can we do at UArizona?