

Notes on General Education Models

The General Education models proposed by UMKC's General Education Oversight Committee follow the suggestion made by the American Association of Colleges and Universities that General Education programs

- Foster Integrative Knowledge and Lifelong Learning
- Incorporate Interdisciplinarity, Critical Thinking, Cultural Diversity, and Civic Engagement
- Integrate High-impact Learning Experiences
- Involve Tenure-line Faculty

The proposed models build on UMKC's core commitments to integrative knowledge and interdisciplinarity—commitments that are at the heart of UMKC's signature IPhD programs and should be at the heart of UMKC's signature General Education program. The interdisciplinary and integrative foundation of these models resides in three **Discourse** courses, which synthesize writing, reading, speaking, listening, and thinking learning outcomes. These sequential courses, which integrate Writing/Composition with Speech/Oral Communication, establish a development and interdisciplinary design for the lifelong communication needs of our students. To ensure that the learning outcomes of the Discourse courses apply to, and expand, the intellectual development of our students, the models link each Discourse course to a content course: Discourse I links with an interdisciplinary course in **Reasoning and Values**; Discourse II links with an interdisciplinary course in **Culture and Diversity**; and Discourse III links with an interdisciplinary course in **Civic and Community Engagement** (where the Discourse courses and their linked courses will be content-connected and the students in any given Discourse course will cohort by taking the same linked course; and where the interdisciplinary courses must be team-taught). The Discourse courses and their linked interdisciplinary courses will be the **Anchor** of UMKC's interdisciplinary General Education program. To connect the General Education program with our degree programs, these models require students to take **Platform** courses that meet the General Education learning outcomes defined for **Natural & Physical Sciences, Arts & Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences**. As part of their learning outcomes, any course in these three areas approved as a General Education course must identify the Discourse level appropriate for the course (and students will be permitted to take the course only if they meet the Discourse requirement). Near the completion of their General Education GE program, students will take a **GE Capstone Course** in which students reflectively apply and integrate their general education program to a high-impact experience, such as community outreach, semester abroad, Art passports, or SEARCH research.