GENERAL STUDIES – ADVISOR SHEET

Dear Advisor,

The document that follows is designed by the General Education Committee to give you fundamental information about the General Education curriculum to help you guide your advisees and help them to learn the linkages between general education at a liberal arts institution and their chosen field(s) of study in the major. Students who enter as freshmen in Fall 2013 or after are subject to the new requirements and policies, as are sophomore transfers beginning Fall 2014 and junior transfers beginning Fall 2015.

General Education Goals

The General Education Program is founded on three overarching goals. Please take every opportunity to educate students about these goals during advising.

- **Knowing the World** | Students will learn about different disciplines, their objects of study, and their approaches to knowledge, establishing a broad foundation for engaging and understanding the world.

- **Engaging the World** | Students will understand cultures as well as the differences within and among them. They will learn different perspectives and contexts that shape our world and recognize the importance of social and ethical engagement in local and global contexts.

- **Understanding the World** | Finally, students will learn to think critically, communicate effectively, and solve problems creatively by acquiring intellectual, practical and integrative skills. By interpreting, synthesizing and adapting knowledge and skills to different situations, they prepare for an informed engagement with the world.

Components of the General Education Curriculum

**A. First-year Seminar** – A liberal arts-oriented introduction to critical reading and writing skills and critical thinking in a seminar setting of approximately 15 students; to be taken within the first year (but international students must first complete SPI 101 and 102 or be exempted).

**B. Composition** (international students must first complete SPI 101 and 102 or be exempted)

1. English 101 – Composition, focusing on thesis-driven essays. Some students will be exempted from 101 through placement, and others will be placed in sections offering supplemental support.

2. English 102 – Writing about Texts, emphasizing research writing and information literacy.
C. **Foreign Language** – Develops linguistic and cognitive capacities while also contributing to cross-cultural understanding and engagement; languages include Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Latin and Ancient Greek. 1-3 courses depending on initial placement:

1. Elementary I and II (101 and 102) and Intermediate I (201/203)
2. Elementary II (102) and Intermediate I (201/203)
3. Intermediate I and II (201 and 202)
4. Advanced (301)

D. **Foundations** – Different approaches to knowledge explored through the major disciplinary areas (one course from each):

1. Social Sciences (Business/Economics, Education, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)
2. Humanities (English, History, Philosophy, Religious Studies)
3. Fine Arts (Art, Music, Theater)
4. Quantitative Studies (Mathematics; qualifying courses are also offered in Accounting, Biology, Business/Economics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Psychology, and Sociology)
5. Natural Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Select courses from interdisciplinary majors (for example, Environmental Science, Women & Gender Studies, Latin American Studies) are also available as Foundations credit.

*Four semesters of credited participation in Concert Band, Chamber Winds, Concert Choir, Women's Chorale or String Orchestra will satisfy this requirement.

E. **Connections** – Connections courses engage difference and value to develop better social and ethical engagement. Two are required, at least 1 dealing substantively with global issues and at least 1 in the humanities. (If a student takes a global Connections course from the humanities, any other Connections course will satisfy this requirement.) Pre-requisite: students must complete at least three Foundations before taking a Connections course.

F. **Synthesis** – General Education’s capstone course, which integrates prior learning, invites connection to the major, and makes the idea and practice of interdisciplinarity a course topic. Pre-requisite: completion of one Connections course. Junior status is required.

G. **Integrated Experience Events** – Cultural events ranging from lectures and exhibitions to concerts and theatrical performances, complementing the learning in other General Education components. Students must receive credit for 16 approved events by the end of their sophomore year; sophomore transfers must complete eight, and junior transfers are exempt from this requirement.
Total courses = 11-14. The learning outcomes of each component of the General Education Curriculum can be found as a separate document in the Advising section of the Faculty Resources web page.

“Captured” Course Policies

1) First Year Seminar cannot be used to satisfy a requirement for the major.
2) Foundations courses may be used to satisfy the requirements for the major unless the department offering the major has a policy against doing so.
3) Synthesis and Connections courses cannot be used to satisfy the requirements for the major if also taken for General Education credit.

Transfer Policies

Transfer policies remain similar to those already in place. The Registrar will continue to determine non-major transfer credit, consulting the department if necessary (or the Curriculum Committee if there is not an appropriate department). Continuing students subject to the new General Education program who take courses elsewhere must transfer courses in accordance with the new program. Incoming transfer students may receive credit in any general education category except Synthesis and Experience Events. Please note the following:

- Students transferring after their freshman year are exempt from the FYS requirement.
- While a course may transfer for Connections credit, if a course qualifying for Connections credit also qualifies for Foundations and the Foundations prerequisite has not been met, the course must transfer as a Foundations course. Otherwise, the three-course Foundations prerequisite for Connections is waived and the course may transfer as Connections credit.