



○ The GE mission statement should highlight what is unique about a St. Olaf education. Currently, there is a sense that it is general enough to apply to many different liberal arts institutions.

§ The mission statement should allow students to imagine the actual content/ tangible structure of the GE. What will they actually be doing?

§ It should also help guide faculty in building the curriculum.

§ Perhaps some sort of visual/graphic representation of the mission statement (and eventual curriculum) would be more accessible for some students. There could be multiple versions of the same statement in different formats. (This would also help exemplify many ways of knowing.)

∅ This, along with exploring the meaning/values of the liberal arts and general “college knowledge” could also be a regular activity of a first-year experience.

· Some faculty could see the potential for a strong mission statement to guide development of the new GE curriculum and assist with advising students in navigating it, but don’t find that the current GE mission statement offers much.

○ Need to start with who we want students to be and then describe how the GE helps them get there.

○ Some suggested writing the mission statement last, after the content is developed. The current statement could be used as a guide, and a final statement voted on later.

Some felt that certain important elements were missing from the mission statement, such as:

· Specific reference to/definition of a liberal arts education (most commonly cited)

· Interdisciplinarity (perhaps this is suggested by “ways of knowing” but could be more clear)

· Breadth (e.g., the idea presented in the rationale that the breadth of GE should complement and/or be the foundation for depth in a major)

· Creativity (specifically, the arts were commonly cited as missing)

· Other missing terms: curiosity, integration, (intellectual) challenge, reflection, rigor, “nourished by Lutheran tradition”, growth, vocation/vocational discernment, critical analysis/thinking/ engagement, knowledge/skills

Finally, some tables’ notes included various name ideas for the GE:

· St. Olaf Core/Ole Core

· Adventure

· Exploration

· Mind Expansion

· The Ole Path

· St. Olaf passport

· Common Curriculum

· Sapientia (Latin for wisdom)

· Ole Ed

· St. Olaf Bridge

· Ask students for name ideas! Perhaps time could be taken in class (first-year writing was offered as a possibility) for students to reflect on this statement and rationale and offer feedback/ideas.