

Syllabus Update: GE 398-399, *The St. Olaf Requirements*

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Ad hoc committees: total of four groups, one for each "OLE Question" and one staff consulting group. In total 15 faculty, three students, and 14 staff.

OLE Questions:

Q1. In what ways can I understand the world and my role in it?

Q2. What skills do I need to live a meaningful and purposeful life in community?

Q3. How can I live responsibly and prepare for challenges in a dynamic, global society?

Fall semester highlights: the St. Olaf faculty took several key steps toward revising the college's general education requirements. In **September** we had a special GE meeting to discuss a set of principles to guide the process, and in **October** we voted to approve them. Also in October, our special GE meeting included members of the Board of Regents, where we discussed a potential mission statement for the new requirements. As a body we decided it was best to postpone determination of the mission statement until later in the process. In **November** we deliberated on a guiding framework for the revised requirements, and in **December** we voted to approve three "Ole Questions" as the structure for shaping new intended learning outcomes. Nominations for ad hoc work groups led to the formation of three teams with faculty, staff, and students, along with a staff consulting group.

Interim work: the ad hoc groups met as they were able over **January**. The staff group presented their initial report to the task force. Focus groups of students were convened and a survey prepared by a student research team. The survey will be administered the first week of spring term.

Spring semester plans: our first special meeting of the semester will be on **February 28**. We will learn more about the work of the ad hoc groups and student survey results through a poster session designed to stimulate discussion and gather feedback. The GE Taskforce members will take those ideas and responses from faculty and create a draft of new requirements. We will discuss those as a faculty during our **March 21** special meeting and deliberate over the developing draft during the **April 11** regular faculty meeting. We will explore together new teaching possibilities for the proposed requirements at our last special meeting on **April 25**. On or before **May 2**, the GE Taskforce will share the final draft of the new core requirements, which will be subject to a faculty vote of approval at the **May 9** faculty meeting.