

It is the sense of the majority of the members of the 2004 General Education Task Force that:

We agree on the following principles:

1. General Education, Electives, and a student's major should each constitute roughly 1/3 of a student's coursework.
2. The current size of the General Education requirement is appropriate (i.e.
 - a. Two 2 Credit Courses in Physical Education
 - b. One Creative/Critical Course in Fine Arts
 - c. Up to 3 Courses in a Foreign Languages to achieve competence at the level of completion of a 201 Course
 - d. Two Courses in Mathematical and Natural Sciences (A: Laboratory Based; B: Mathematically, Quantitatively Based)
 - e. One Course in Quantitative Reasoning
 - f. Two Courses in International Studies
 - g. Two Courses in Inventing America
3. The First Year Experience should include of two courses, of limited enrollment, with an emphasis upon reading and rhetoric (both written and spoken)
4. The Physical Education Requirement works well as it now stands
5. The Fine Arts Requirement works well as it now stands
6. The Foreign Language Requirement works well as it now stands
7. The Mathematical and Natural Science Requirement (A: Lab, B: Math/Quant.) works well as it now stands. However, it might be valuable to require that students complete one of these courses during the first year.
8. The Quantitative Reasoning Requirement is valuable, but its justification in the catalog, as well as the criteria for courses designated as fulfilling it, deserve re-examination.
9. The Overseas Program is an extremely valuable part of a student's education, and Two courses worth of credit toward General Education is appropriate.
10. The justification in the catalog, and the criteria for courses deemed to fulfill it, for the on-campus alternative of the International Studies Requirement are inadequate, deserving a fresh start.
11. The Inventing America program has run its course at Lewis & Clark College

We note the following obstacles to establishing a new program of General Education

1. There are profound divisions within the faculty with regard to the first year program of General Education. The faculty is divided between those who value a shared syllabus, limited autonomy in choosing topics, and absolute autonomy in choosing topics.

2. There is a profound disagreement between administration and departments as to whether or not the current voting faculty is sufficient to provide sufficient sections of limited enrollment first year courses while maintaining quality programs of instruction in the several majors. We encourage both sides to come to this question with open minds and a spirit of inquiry.

The following matters are still before the Task Force

1. The Humanities Faculty has expressed an interest in providing a limited autonomy core course in the humanities, based upon selections from a shared reading list, to form a portion of the first year program of General Education.
2. The Social Sciences Faculty has expressed an interest in providing limited enrollment sections of its introductory courses to constitute a part of the first year program of General Education.
3. The committee is seeking creative ways to weave together the first year program with a revised International Studies requirement, perhaps under an Area Studies rubric, to make for a coherent student experience.