

**GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS & CORE COMMITTEE
(GER&C)
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2017–2018**

The 2017-2018 GER&C committee was comprised of:

Voting Members

- Social Sciences: Alex Hirsch
- English: Sarah Stanley
- Humanities: Seth Jones
- Mathematics: Leah Berman, Chair
- Natural Science: Larry Duffy
- Communication: Kevin Sager
- Library: Kathy Arndt
- Arts: Zoe Jones
- CRCD: Jennie Carroll
- At-Large: Jody Drew

Non-Voting Members

- Tony Richard, CNSM
- Kevin Berry, SOM
- Marsha Sousa, Director of Honors Program
- Colleen Angaiak, Rural Student Services
- Stacey Howdeshell, Academic Advising Center
- Ginny Kinne, Academic Advising Center
- Caty Oehring, Office of the Registrar
- Victoria Smith, Student Support Services
- Hayley Williams, Office of the Registrar

The GER&C committee (pronounced ‘jerk’ to disambiguate it from the previous General Education Revitalization Committee; the ampersand is silent) met eight times during the 2017-18 academic year, on September 15, October 20, November 17, December 8, 2017, and January 20, February 16, March 9 and April 20, 2018.

This year, as always, the primary responsibility of GER&C is to consider student petitions involving general education courses or common baccalaureate requirements (e.g., Ethics, O, W). The committee also was part of the conversation about the language in University Regulation (10.04.040) governing General Education Requirements across the University of Alaska System. Finally, the committee worked on developing more detailed rationales and rubrics for which courses should be in the General Education Categories (especially for Social Science, Humanities, and Arts), although those rubrics and rationales are not complete.

GER&C looked at 26 petitions: 15 were approved, and 11 were denied. Of the 26 petitions, 4 were asking to have current courses get O or O/2 status (this included several blanket petitions to have this status approved for all students who took a particular course); 4 were to have W status; 4 involved the Ethics requirement. The others primarily involved students asking for transferred courses to satisfy GER requirements.

GER&C considered only two new proposed X courses, Math F114, which is a new course which was approved to satisfy the mathematics GER category as Math F114X, and HSEM F110, which was *not* approved for inclusion in the social science category. The committee also approved a number of changes to current X courses. The department of mathematics and statistics submitted a large collection of minor changes to course titles, descriptions, or prerequisites for Math F251X, F230X, F122X, F156X, F151X, which under current policy is required to be approved by this committee. DMS also submitted changes to STAT F200X

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as a result of the GER alignment process, and a major course description change for Math F113X. The biology department requested that BIOL F213/4 (Human A&P I and II) be revised and renumbered (returning to old numbers) as BIOL F111X/112X, as part of the GER alignment process; the chemistry department submitted revisions to Chem F103X - F106X due to GER alignment as well (approved by GER&C for the 2019-20 catalog). Finally, BIOL F335 was granted a permanent O/2 designation to ease graduation requirements for students in older catalogs.

GER&C discussed the revisions to university regulations, which were approved in resolution form by Faculty Senate in March 2018 for suggestion, via faculty alliance, to the system president. The committee hopes the regulations will be changed this summer, and looks forward to submitting changes to UAF GER that now will be possible as a consequence of the regulation changes.

The committee spent several meetings trying to develop clearer category descriptions and evaluation rubrics for courses that can be included in the categories of the Ethics baccalaureate requirement and the social science and humanities categories of the GER (with arts to be considered next year). Note that these category descriptions will be more detailed than the sketchy language in University Regulation, as is appropriate. We anticipate finishing that work next fall and submitting the category descriptions and rubrics for approval by Faculty Senate.

After the category descriptions and rubrics have been approved by Faculty Senate, the committee anticipates the need to re-evaluate courses currently in the GER categories (possibly with the assistance of CAC) to determine whether they meet the category descriptions; for course that do not, the committee would invite revisions of the courses to meet the category requirements, or suggest the removal (for that and subsequent calendar years) from the GER category for courses that cannot be revised to meet the descriptions and rubrics.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Berman