



Oct. 6, 2021

Highlights

- A new General Studies Program
- A phased implementation plan with Phase I in Fall 2022 and Phase II in Fall 2024
- Upcoming communication to academic units

NAU's General Studies Program

Kate Ellis, the Faculty Senate President, and I are happy to share that the Arizona Board of Regents approved our new General Studies Program on Oct. 1. [Read more about these efforts.](#)

The new General Studies Program that our faculty designed is ambitious and aspirational. It showcases a roadmap for our students' educational future that mirrors the strategic roadmap we endeavor to create to change students' lives by providing equitable value and drive positive change in communities throughout Arizona and beyond.

Thanks to the many faculty and staff who worked collaboratively over the last several years to get us to this point. Special recognition goes to Dr. Jeff Berglund for this leadership in development of the program.

A sequenced implementation plan with Phase I in Fall 2022 and Phase II in Fall 2024

An implementation plan for the new program, developed by a Faculty Senate-charged Curriculum and Assessment Coordinating Committee, was approved by the Faculty Senate on Sept. 27. As we teach out our current program, we will simultaneously begin offering courses in the new program.

Phase I: In Fall 2022, students will have an opportunity to take classes that will become part of the new General Studies Program. Many courses in our current program, and newly developed courses, will have a designation in both programs. This transition-focused approach will afford us time to build our capacity to fully implement the new program by shifting resources, hiring expertise, and pivoting offerings to meet the enrollment needs in a predictable manner for our students.

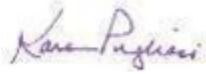
Students who enroll at NAU through 2023-24 academic year, will enter under our current Liberal Studies Program and will be able to fulfill those requirements through graduation. We will continue to offer the necessary courses for our current students to complete the existing Liberal Studies Program requirements.

Phase II: Starting in Fall 2024, incoming students will be required to meet the requirements of the new General Studies Program. Transfer students, as designated by current policy, will have the option to continue under the previous Liberal Studies Program or enter with the new General Studies Requirements.

Upcoming Communications

Yvonne Luna, Associate Vice Provost for Curriculum & Assessment, will provide more detailed information about next steps to academic units and faculty in the coming days.

Thank you again to all the faculty and staff working collaboratively to implement this ambitious program for our students.



Karen Pugliesi
Interim Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs



Kate Ellis
President, Faculty Senate