

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



December 12, 2022

Dear colleagues,

We have a short time left to wrap up the fall semester. I look forward to seeing you on Friday to celebrate our graduating students at Commencement. Please be sure to note the receptions for faculty in advance of each ceremony hosted by President Cruz Rivera.

Thank you for your contributions to our students' achievements and all the other important work you do to help Elevate Excellence at NAU. I wish you the best for the holidays.

Best,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Karen'.

Karen

General Studies Update

We are pleased to report that the Arizona Board of Regents has approved NAU's General Studies program. This was their second approval of the program following modifications made to strengthen alignment with ABOR policy and address the Board's feedback. We thank the Faculty Senate and General Studies and Diversity Curriculum committee leaders and members for their help in making changes with exceptionally tight time constraints.

With the final approval of our program, we are continuing with the process of building out the General Studies program for implementation in Fall 2025. The Director of the General Studies program—Emily Manone—is working with the two committees to resume and accelerate the review of courses to fill out offerings for the program requirements. Please look for communication from General Studies about course submission and review, as well as the timeline and key milestones on the way to implementation.

To better align with the Board's interests, changes to the program included strengthening knowledge areas, centering the foundational definition of critical thinking, increasing faculty discretion in designing and teaching courses included in the program, increasing student choice and altering language to communicate more effectively to varied stakeholders.

The most substantial and structural change was reducing the Inclusive Perspectives requirement from four to three courses: US Ethnic Diversity, Global Diversity and Indigenous

Peoples. The General Studies program director and Diversity Curriculum Committee is determining how to ensure that courses previously approved for Intersectionality will be incorporated into the program. The program description, as presented to ABOR, is included below.

Designed by NAU's faculty with a focus on preparing students for success in the world they will enter following graduation, the General Studies program is key to the achievement of the Academic Excellence strategic priority in the Elevating Excellence plan. We are enthusiastic about putting General Studies in place so that NAU undergraduates benefit from this outstanding program.

We thank all faculty who have contributed to the design, stewardship, and implementation of the General Studies program. Please watch for announcements from the Teaching & Learning Center for learning opportunities for faculty who will contribute to the General Studies program. See below, under December Updates, for an announcement of an Indigenous Peoples Curriculum Seminar. Kudos to all the staff who work diligently behind the scenes on the many facets of implementing a program of this scale.

Best,

Karen Pugliesi
Executive Vice President and Provost (I)

Kate Ellis
Faculty Senate President

Brief Program Description:

NAU's General Studies Program is designed to create well-rounded graduates who possess knowledge from a variety of disciplines and implement a range of crucial transferable skills.

Students begin their journey with foundations in English and Mathematics. Students develop a firm understanding of traditional branches of knowledge by taking courses in each of the following areas: (a) Arts & Humanities, (b) Social & Political Worlds, (c) American Institutions, and (d) Scientific Literacy & Methods. The American Institutions requirement engages students in advanced civics education centered on the constitutional democratic government and institutions of the United States. For each Knowledge Area, students will develop and apply fundamental capacities of critical thinking and methods of evaluation toward robust information literacy.

Recognizing that students "must understand how the traditional branches of knowledge can be situated within a broad perspective that enables them to comprehend change, cultures and diverse experiences, and local and global regions," students will develop a range of intercultural competencies to foster success in the modern workforce and equip them as active and engaged citizens of their local, national, and global communities. Embedded within some of the Knowledge Area courses, knowledge and perspectives related to Indigenous Peoples, U.S. Ethnic, and Global diversity are meaningfully included.

Understanding commonalities, differences, and changes experienced by groups and those they encounter in their careers and personal lives provides a strong foundation for civil

dialogue and civic participation. Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples perspectives aligns with NAU's longstanding commitment to Indigenous students and communities, a priority reinforced in *NAU 2025 – Elevating Excellence*, and reflects NAU's differentiated location and mission within Arizona's public higher education enterprise.

**Alignment Map - Program Requirements to
General Studies Program Learning Outcomes**

Program Requirements (11 courses)	General Studies Program Learning Outcomes
<p><u>Knowledge Areas (9 courses)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and Humanities (3 courses) • Scientific Literacy & Methods (3 courses) • American Institutions (1 course) • Social and Political Worlds (2 courses) 	<p>Utilize a depth and breadth of knowledge to enrich focused disciplinary capabilities, foster civic engagement, and respond and adapt to real-world experiences.</p>
<p>Of the 9 required Knowledge Area courses, students will take 3 courses that embed <u>Inclusive Perspectives</u> (Indigenous Peoples, U.S. Ethnic, Global).</p>	<p>Understand lived experiences and perspectives that differ from their own, in order to engage in an inclusive workforce and contribute to equitable local, national and global communities.</p>
<p><u>Mathematics Foundations</u> (1 course)</p> <p><u>Essential Skills</u> (Information Literacy, Critical Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning, and Applications) are embedded in Knowledge Area courses.</p>	<p>Apply analytical thinking skills to:</p> <p>Interpret and analyze from multiple perspectives; withhold judgment until they have assessed the evidence; advance an argument; or problem-solve to suggest solutions.</p> <p>Use numerical, visual or symbolic reasoning for the purposes of drawing inferences, understanding phenomena or making predictions.</p> <p>Effectively find, evaluate, and use information.</p>
<p><u>English Foundations</u> (1 course)</p> <p><u>Essential Skills</u> (Civil Discourse through Writing, Speaking and Collaboration/Teamwork) are embedded in Knowledge Areas courses.</p>	<p>Employ strategies of civil discourse to engage in constructive dialogue through speaking, writing and teamwork.</p>
<p><u>Habits of Mind</u> (Curiosity, Intellectual Integrity, Persistence, Self-awareness) are embedded in all General Studies courses.</p>	<p>Integrate the habits of mind of curiosity, intellectual integrity, persistence, and self-awareness in their personal and professional lives.</p>

<p>Each major will demonstrate how they infuse, or incorporate, Ethics in a disciplinary-appropriate manner into their courses and degree requirements.</p>	
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December Updates

➤ **General Studies Indigenous Peoples Curriculum Seminar: Spring 2023**

Furthering efforts to provide a robust General Studies Program, we are offering an Indigenous Peoples Curriculum Seminar supported through an Elevating Excellence grant, with additional support through the Office of the Provost. This seminar is geared toward faculty who are interested in developing a course proposal, or those who seek further development of course material, assignments, and assessments for an already submitted proposal. In honor of faculty participation and engagement, participants may be eligible for up to \$750 in professional development funds. In alignment with Elevating Excellence, this seminar will offer a focused faculty professional development opportunity that reflects our commitment to Indigenous peoples. Please contact general.studies@nau.edu for more information.

➤ **Teaching Day 2023: Toward an HSI Pedagogy of Servingness**

Teaching Day 2023, "Toward an HSI Pedagogy of Servingness," with Dr. Gina Garcia, will be held on Thursday, January 12 from 8 a.m. to noon in person at the High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff and via Zoom. The keynote address, "Defining Servingness in Practice at Hispanic Serving Institutions," will be followed by a workshop.

[Read more about Teaching Day 2023 and register.](#)

NAU Teaching Day is a collaboration of the NAU Teaching Academy, the Teaching and Learning Center, and the Office of the Provost.

➤ **Academic Impressions Membership**

NAU has partnered with Academic Impressions, an organization specializing in professional development resources for higher education administrators. This partnership provides all NAU faculty and staff with membership access to a host of learning resources designed specifically for professionals working in higher education. Topic areas range from skills-based trainings for professionals in all areas of higher ed, to leadership trainings on topics such as supervision, personal effectiveness, to

diversity, equity, & inclusion, advancement, academic affairs, and more – all of which are developed for higher education professionals by higher education professionals.

To gain access to member resources, visit academicimpressions.com and create a free account using your @nau.edu work email address.

Please contact our Account Managers if you have questions or run into any issues: Yianna Kappas (yianna@academicimpressions.com) Kori Parton (kori@academicimpressions.com).

➤ **Awards – Call for nominations!**

In recognition of the many facets of faculty and academic professionals' work, the following awards are open for AY 2022-23. For specific information and details about the selection process, application and nominations, please see the links below.

- Nominations for the following awards are due by close of business on March 3:
 - [NAU Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership](#)
 - [NAU Award for Faculty Excellence in Global Learning](#)
 - [NAU Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#) (open to 2023 College Teachers of the Year). TOY recipients are considered for the award for excellence in teaching and learning without applying. There will be a committee review of the TOY recipients to determine the awardee.