The “Getting Your Generals Out of the Way” Myth and Other Fairytales

Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)
UACEP Spring Conference/March 15, 2017
GenEd, the Fairytale Edition (what is General Education?)

- ...a program of education intended to develop students as personalities rather than trained specialists.
- ...the place where students are brought to understand how everything that we teach in arts and sciences relates to their lives and to the world they will confront.
- ...help[s] students prepare for the 21st Century through ... programs founded upon principles of equity and excellence, and elements of high-impact practices that will assist students in achieving proficiencies in the Essential Learning Outcomes. (USHE definition)
- ...the educational foundation of skills, knowledge, habits of mind, and values that prepares students for success in their majors and in their personal and professional lives after graduation.
Statute charges institutions to offer “highly transferrable” courses for CE (GenEd)

ENGL/WRTG 1010, a core GenEd requirement for all 3- and 4-year degrees and many certificates, is #1 top enrolling CE class

GenEd credit is 69% of 2015-16 earned CE credit was GenEd credit
**GE Credit Requirements: 30 to 39 semester credits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>12 credits</th>
<th>Must complete</th>
<th>ENGL 1010, ENGL 2010, 1-QL, 1-American Institutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breadth</td>
<td>15-27 credits</td>
<td>May complete</td>
<td>At least one 3-credit class from each of the five breadth areas: Arts, Humanities, Life Science, Physical Science, and Social and Behavioral Science</td>
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3.3 USHE institutions may create additional Breadth Areas as they deem appropriate. Students transferring between USHE institutions would be required to complete these additional courses unless the transfer included a Letter or Certificate of General Education completion from another USHE institution.

7.1.2 If a student has completed all institutional General Education requirements, a Letter of Completion (issued by the sending institution confirming General Education completion) or a Certificate of General Education completion shall be accepted by the receiving USHE institution.
More than 50% of CE students will transfer credits.

Students take CE classes at one USHE institution, graduate, then attend a different institution.
Applicability is key.

- **Equivalent Credit** -- The receiving institution accepts the transfer course as equivalent to their course. Equivalent credit means the institution(s) will treat the class as if you had taken the class on their campus.

- **Elective Credit** -- The transfer course does not have a specific equivalent course at the receiving institution(s). The course does not fulfill major requirements; however, it may still be used as elective credit.
Mythic Statement
Take 2: All credit transfers.

Applicability is key.

- **GenEd Inconsistencies across Institutions** – “When a unicorn is NOT a unicorn.”
  - NUTR 1020 is GenEd at 5 USHE institutions
  - HUM 1010 is not taught at one institution
  - HIST class may be HU at one institution, SS at another

- **Majors may want specific GenEd classes** –
Navigating the GE Yellow Brick Road

- Follow the USHE GenEd Pathway
  - Take one class from each of the categories
- If you know for sure the institution you will attend after graduation, use that school’s Institution GenEd pathway
- Check credit transfer at TransferUtah.org
- Speak with an advisor at the institution you will attend after graduation
Questions?

• UtahCE.org
• Cyd Grua, cgrua@ushe.edu