

Future of Adelphi General Education

Discussion Leaders:

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Discussion:

How can we positively move Adelphi's Gen Ed program out of a fog and into specifics?

The 2010 analysis shows that faculty and students do not understand or appreciate what it is or can be at the institution. We have to get the faculty involved positively, so that students are guided in the idea that they aren't just satisfying requirements, but instead have the freedom to educate themselves. The current program is considered negative, externalized, and bombarding students.

Adelphi is in the process of revising the program. Plan is to eliminate the FORe class, and add that one credit to the Freshman Seminar (bringing it to four credits). Goal of the seminar is to use as a guidance; so that each student can exercise their own interests and understand why 'x' subject is important for their future.

The discussion brought up a lot a great points as to what the existing issues are and how they might be addressed.

- Some majors can't get their students to fulfill the learning goals, as their aren't enough course options.
- Can we create multiple pathways to get each student to the desired outcome? The faculty want students to complete their education with broad experience.
- One issue is the distinction between distribution for exposure
- Frustration could be mitigated by putting more Gen Ed courses online.
- Change the advising aspect of Gen Ed. CLASS system makes it challenging to see what courses are offered. You can't go through to see what is being offered in the Fall and Spring. It's difficult to think about thematic advising so that students get a general education that has variety and maintains interest.

Suggestions

- These items need to be tweaked to make Gen Ed work for everyone:
 1. Orientation
 2. Content
 3. Structure
- Turn the FORe class into a compass class.

- This would be a 1 credit course in which students would be placed in a class with an advisor based on their interest, who would help them to lay out a plan for their entire college career.
- Look at the current catalog of Gen Ed courses and restructure them around the specific student.
- Focused Gen Ed could be used as a recruitment tool.