A Snapshot of General Studies

In 2000 the AACU surveyed provosts and GS directors at 567 four-year institutions (which mirrored the proportion of institutions in each of the Carnegie categories). 54% responded. Respondents were asked about goals, practices, priorities, external influences, and future challenges to their GS program.

GS renewal

64% believe general education has increased as an institutional priority in the last ten years. 56% of institutions have revised their GS program since 1994.

- Implication: Interest in GS renewal is high

Among the surveyed institutions:

- 55% require a freshman seminar in the GS program
- 55% require interdisciplinary core courses in the GS program
- 49% require common learning experiences in the GS program

- Implication: GS programs seem to lean toward having some aspect of a “core curriculum” in their GS program

How does UNK compare in hours of credits required in the GS program?

On average nearly 38% of credit hours for bachelor degrees are in GS courses (median was 40%). At UNK 36% of credit hours for the bachelor is in GS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What % of bachelor requirements is in GS?</th>
<th>Average GS credit hours required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surveyed institutions</td>
<td>37.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNK</td>
<td>36.0 %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Implication: UNK’s current required 45 hours of GS is average