

**General Studies Renewal
Faculty Survey
April 17 - 24, 2009 Online
N = 131**

Question 1

How important do you think General Studies is as a component of students' education?

very important	somewhat important	neutral	somewhat unimportant	very unimportant	Responses	Mean
60%	30%	2%	6%	2%	124	2

Question 2

How informed are you about nationwide reform efforts in general education that are currently taking place?

very informed	somewhat informed	neutral	somewhat uninformed	very uninformed	Responses	Mean
16%	55%	12%	11%	6%	123	2

Question 3

In their 2008 focused visit, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (or "NCA") made specific requirements in relation to UNK's General Studies program. How aware are you of the NCA requirements on General Studies?

very aware	somewhat aware	neutral	somewhat unaware	very unaware	Responses	Mean
35%	46%	7%	7%	5%	123	2

Question 4

The General Studies Council has proposed the following General Studies program to improve student learning and address NCA requirements:

Foundational Core (12 hours) – written and oral communication, and math for the educated person. It also includes a course from the category Democracy in Perspective. These courses focus on the development of democratic ideals, and on the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Various disciplines could have offerings in this category.

Portal Course (3 hours) – this course is centered on a topic or theme, and the primary purpose of the course is to develop critical thinking skills.

Distribution (27 hours) – students select courses from Aesthetics, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences, and may also opt to take courses in quantitative reasoning and wellness.

Capstone Course (3 hours) – learning outcomes focus on developing higher level integrative thinking; the Capstone is interdisciplinary so that students engage multiple approaches to synthesize knowledge.

In your opinion, do you see the proposed overall curriculum as one that helps students improve their critical thinking skills?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	66	56%
No	51	44%

Question 5**In your opinion, do you see the proposed overall curriculum as a feasible General Studies program for UNK?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	81	69%
2	No	36	31%

Question 6**To what extent do you think it is likely that your department will create course proposals for the new General Studies program?**

very likely	somewhat likely	neutral	somewhat unlikely	very unlikely	Responses	Mean
52%	22%	12%	5%	9%	117	2

Question 7**To what extent are you personally interested in creating and teaching a Portal, Capstone or other course in the new General Studies program?**

very interested	somewhat interested	neutral	somewhat uninterested	very uninterested	Responses	Mean
39%	23%	18%	5%	15%	117	2

Question 8

The first component of the proposed General Studies program is the Foundational Core (12 hours). It is intended to develop written, spoken, and quantitative skills that transfer across disciplines. It is also designed to give all students a foundational understanding of the ideals of democracy as a common context for their college education.

Do you see the Foundational Core as giving students necessary skills and an important common perspective for their college education?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	73	65%
2	No	40	35%

Question 9**To what extent do you think it is likely that your department will create course proposals for the Foundational Core?**

very likely	somewhat likely	neutral	somewhat unlikely	very unlikely	Responses	Mean
27%	21%	19%	15%	19%	112	3

Question 10**To what extent are you personally interested in creating and teaching a course in the Foundational Core?**

very interested	somewhat interested	neutral	somewhat uninterested	very uninterested	Responses	Mean
20%	19%	20%	15%	26%	109	3

Question 11

Early in the proposed General Studies program, students will take a Portal course (3 hours). This course analyzes critical issues which confront society, and which pertain to the discipline in which it is taught. Portal courses can be offered in various disciplines, as long as the primary focus of the course is to develop critical thinking skills. Learners are mentored through the process of analyzing important ideas and articulating their own conclusions.

Do you see the Portal course as an effective way to help students develop critical thinking skills?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	73	67%
No	36	33%

Question 12

To what extent do you think it is likely that your department will create course proposals for the Portal?

very likely	somewhat likely	neutral	somewhat unlikely	very unlikely	Responses	Mean
44%	23%	18%	5%	10%	111	2

Question 13

To what extent are you personally interested in creating and teaching a Portal course in the new General Studies program?

very interested	somewhat interested	neutral	somewhat uninterested	very uninterested	Responses	Mean
30%	27%	19%	9%	15%	110	3

Question 14

The Distribution section (22 hours required, 5 hours electives) offers learners a broad education experience in Aesthetics (3-6 hours), Humanities (6-9 hours), Natural Sciences (7-11 hours) and Social Sciences (6-9 hours). Students also may opt to take analytical & quantitative reasoning (0-3 hours) and/or wellness courses (0-3 hours) for General Studies credit.

Do you see the Distribution section as a broad and balanced curriculum for students?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	62	56%
No	48	44%

Question 15

To what extent do you think it is likely that your department will create course proposals in one or more of the Distribution categories?

very likely	somewhat likely	neutral	somewhat unlikely	very unlikely	Responses	Mean
61%	10%	14%	6%	9%	111	2

Question 16

To what extent do you think it is important that students be able to choose which courses to take from within Distribution categories?

very important	somewhat important	neutral	somewhat unimportant	very unimportant	Responses	Mean
55%	20%	15%	5%	5%	110	2

Question 17

The Capstone (3 hours) is an interdisciplinary course that culminates the student's General Studies experience. This interdisciplinary focus requires students to engage different methodologies, to integrate knowledge, and to synthesize results. Learners apply all the abilities they have gained from General Studies to completing a significant original project or paper.

Do you see the interdisciplinary Capstone course as an effective means to help students integrate knowledge?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	82	75%
No	28	25%

Question 18

To what extent do you think it is likely that your department will create course proposals for the Capstone?

very likely	somewhat likely	neutral	somewhat unlikely	very unlikely	Responses	Mean
47%	25%	19%	2%	7%	109	2

Question 19

To what extent are you personally interested in creating and teaching a Capstone course?

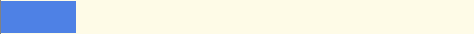




very interested	somewhat interested	neutral	somewhat uninterested	very uninterested	Responses	Mean
28%	27%	26%	9%	11%	109	2

Question 20

In a typical academic year, do you teach one or more General Studies courses?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	65	59%
No	45	41%
Total	110	100%

Question 21**In what college are you a faculty member?**

Answer		Response	%
Business and Technology		17	16%
Education		15	14%
Fine Arts and Humanities		33	31%
Natural and Social Sciences		37	34%
Library		4	4%