



The Transforming General Education Task Force presents:

New Models of General Education for Southern Oregon University

Models “A” & “B2”

— Spring 2021 —

(Revised 05.18.2021)

Introducing Two Core Capacity Models of GenEd

The Transforming General Education offers two Core Capacities Models of General Education for Senate review, designated herein as **Model A** and **Model B2**.

Each model is focused on six **Core Capacities** tied together by the **Purpose ePortfolio**:

1. Purposeful Living (PL)

This Purposeful Living capacity supports students in building skills for personal and professional development. The learning outcomes bridge higher education to broader goals related to self, community, and career. The proficiencies offer a practical and purposeful approach to self-reflection, connection with others, communication of purpose, and adaptation in an ever-changing world.

2. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

The capacity for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion prepares students to engage in a lifelong, intentional, and continuous process of learning culturally affirming ways of being, interacting, and behaving that contribute to equitable living outcomes in both global and local communities. EDI prioritizes the critical awareness of historical and

contemporary structural inequity and its causes; encourages the development of empathy, respect, and skills for communicating across differences; and develops tools in service of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive society. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion involves the active combination of each of these frameworks; it is not to be interpreted as equity, diversity, or inclusion.

3. Communication & Expression (CE)

The capacity for Communication & Expression equips students to create, develop, and convey ideas with an audience in mind (e.g., using writing, speaking, listening, dialogue, sound, visual images, media, embodied expression, movement, and/or networked digital tools) and to receive, appreciate, and analyze those ideas.

4. Numerical Literacy (NL)

The capacity in Numerical Literacy develops a student's ability to reason and solve quantitative problems situated within a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts. Students learn to ask mathematical questions about their world, identify appropriate methods to interpret data, and clearly communicate their results in a variety of formats.

5. Inquiry & Analysis (IA)

The capacity for Inquiry & Analysis enables students to pose meaningful questions; gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize relevant information; and articulate how the information cycle (the iterative process by which information is understood, consumed, & produced) contributes to an understanding of the world and shapes decisions, actions, and conclusions.

6. Creativity & Innovation (CI)

The Creativity & Innovation capacity equips students to devise original approaches to creative projects or complex problems. Students are afforded the opportunity to produce original work that expands or transforms existing approaches and methods, towards the goal of engaging an audience with work that possesses meaning and value. Creativity is an ongoing and iterative process, whereby students strive to improve their work by considering and incorporating feedback. This capacity fosters the self-confidence and imagination necessary to innovate boldly and bring a product or solution to fruition.

The Purpose ePortfolio will be introduced in the **First-Year Experience** for Freshmen students who begin their college journey at SOU (the GenEd Transfer Articulation & Teachout Plan, to be released to faculty on May 14, will address ePortfolio onboarding for transfer students). Every GenEd course at SOU will result in experiences and artifacts that contribute to the Purpose ePortfolio, but **the ePortfolio is not just about coursework.** *Students should make connections between their course-learning, co-curricular activities, employment, hobbies, and personal goals as they exhibit their growth in all Core Capacities.*

Comparing Model A and Model B2

Below we will describe each model in detail, but let us begin by highlighting a few key similarities and differences:

	MODEL A	MODEL B
12-Credit First-Year Experience that addresses writing, critical think, information literacy, and presentation through a Purposeful Living lens.	YES	YES
# of Required Courses	Fixed at 12	Variable
# of Total Required Credits	38-46	Fixed at 48
# of LD Required Credits	27-32	32-36
# of UD Required Credits	11-14	12-16
Culminating ePortfolio Course	Required	Optional

Understanding **Model A**: Fixed at 12 Courses

Model A's approach to student transparency favors fixed **course requirements**.

(MA) Lower-Division Requirements - 8 courses:

(MA) 3 LD First-Year Experience Courses Required (12 credits)

The First-Year Experience will address the **Purposeful Living**, **Communication & Expression**, and **Inquiry & Analysis** capacities while onboarding Freshmen into their Purpose ePortfolios.

- USEM 101 — (4 LD credits) **PL/CE/IA**
- USEM 102 — (4 LD credits) **PL/CE/IA**
- USEM 103 — (4 LD credits) **PL/CE/IA**

(MA) 5 LD Capacity Courses Required (15-20 credits)

Each course in this category must come from a different prefix, and no more than one course may double-dip with a student's major.

One course each in:

- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)** — (3-4 LD credits)
- **Communication & Expression (CE)** — (3-4 LD credits)

- **Numerical Literacy (NL)** — (3-4 LD credits)
- **Inquiry & Analysis (IA)** — (3-4 LD credits)
- **Creativity & Innovation (CI)** — (3-4 LD credits)

(MA) Upper-Division Requirements - 4 courses:

Each upper-division course must come from a different prefix, and no more than one course may double-dip with a student's major.

(MA) 1 UD Course Required in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (3-4 credits)

All students must complete one 3-to-4 credit upper-division course approved for EDI.

- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)** — (3-4 UD credits)

(MA) 2 UD Capacity Courses Required (6-8 credits)

Each course from a different capacity.

Students choose 2 courses from:

- **Communication & Expression (CE)** — (3-4 UD credits)
- **Numerical Literacy (NL)** — (3-4 UD credits)
- **Inquiry & Analysis (IA)** — (3-4 UD credits)
- **Creativity & Innovation (CI)** — (3-4 UD credits)

(MA) 1 UD Purpose ePortfolio Course Required (2 credits)

- **Purpose ePortfolio (PL)** — (2 UD credits)

VISUAL MODEL A:

MODEL A

REQUIRED FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE (12 credits):

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE 1
1 course (4 credits)

PL / CE / IA

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE 2
1 course (4 credits)

PL / CE / IA

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE 3
1 course (4 credits)

PL / CE / IA

REQUIRED LD CORE CAPACITY COURSES (15-20 credits):

LD COMMUNICATION & EXPRESSION
1 course (3-4 credits)

LD INQUIRY & ANALYSIS
1 course (3-4 credits)

LD NUMERICAL LITERACY
1 course (3-4 credits)

LD CREATIVITY & INNOVATION
1 course (3-4 credits)

LD EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION
1 course (3-4 credits)

REQUIRED UD EDI COURSE (3-4 credits):

UD EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION
1 course (3-4 credits)

CHOOSE 2 CAPACITIES FROM THE FOLLOWING (6-8 credits):

UD COMMUNICATION & EXPRESSION
1 course (3-4 credits)

UD INQUIRY & ANALYSIS
1 course (3-4 credits)

UD NUMERICAL LITERACY
1 course (3-4 credits)

UD CREATIVITY & INNOVATION
1 course (3-4 credits)

REQUIRED ePORTFOLIO (2 credits):

UD GenEd ePortfolio Course
1 course (2 credits)
Purposeful Living Lens

Understanding **Model B2**: Fixed at 48 Credits

Model B2's approach to student transparency favors fixed *credit requirements*.

(MB2) Lower-Division Requirements - 32 credits:

(MB2) 12 LD Credits Required in the First-Year Experience

The First-Year Experience will address the *Purposeful Living*, *Communication & Expression*, and *Inquiry & Analysis* capacities while onboarding Freshmen into their Purpose ePortfolios.

- USEM 101 — (4 LD credits) *PL/CE/IA*
- USEM 102 — (4 LD credits) *PL/CE/IA*
- USEM 103 — (4 LD credits) *PL/CE/IA*

(MB2) 20 LD Core Capacity Credits Required

While most students will meet these requirements by enrolling in one 4-credit course per capacity, this model allows the creation of alternative means of acquiring these credits, including the creation of 1 or 2-credit mini-courses, 2+2 cross-capacity connecting courses, and experiential or service-learning immersions. **No more than 4 credits in this category may come from the same course prefix or double-dip with a student's major.**

4 credits each in:

- *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)* — (4 LD credits)
- *Communication & Expression (CE)* — (4 LD credits)
- *Numerical Literacy (NL)* — (4 LD credits)
- *Inquiry & Analysis (IA)* — (4 LD credits)
- *Creativity & Innovation (CI)* — (4 LD credits)

(MB2) Flex-Level Requirements - 4 credits:

(MB2) 4 LD or UD Credits Required in Purposeful Living

This model gives students the opportunity to take either lower-division or upper-division courses that build their *Purposeful Living* capacity, drawing from courses that support practical life and career skills and develop emotional intelligence. Here, in particular, students might benefit from the creation of 1 or 2-credit mini-courses in such topics as financial planning, work-life balance, computer skills, or optional ePortfolio-building courses. Program Capstone classes that incorporate the Purpose ePortfolio and core capacities may also get approval to count toward this requirement.

- **Purposeful Living (PL)** — (4 credits, any level)

(MB2) Upper-Division Requirements - 12 credits:

No more than 4 credits in the UD requirements may come from the same course prefix or double-dip with a student's major.

(MB2) 4 UD Credits Required in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

All students must complete 4 upper-division credits in EDI.

- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)** — (4 UD credits)

(MB2) 8 UD Core Capacity Credits Required

While most students will meet this requirement by enrolling in two 4-credit courses, this model allows the creation of alternative means of acquiring these credits, including the creation of 1 or 2-credit mini-courses, 2+2 cross-capacity connecting courses, and experiential or service-learning immersions.

No more than 4 credits in any capacity.

Students choose 8 credits from:

- **Communication & Expression (CE)** — (Up to 4 UD credits)
- **Numerical Literacy (NL)** — (Up to 4 UD credits)
- **Inquiry & Analysis (IA)** — (Up to 4 UD credits)
- **Creativity & Innovation (CI)** — (Up to 4 UD credits)

VISUAL MODEL B2:

