Recent History of Liberal Education Reform at the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire

The purpose of this document is to highlight the faculty-driven progress towards liberal education reform. This recent progress builds upon the foundation of work completed over the past decade.

- 2005: UW System became a LEAP Partner (see AAC&U for the significance of this partnership)
- 2007: UW Eau Claire adopted the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) Initiative
- 2007: UW Eau Claire created and adopted Learning Goals based on LEAP
- 2009: UW Eau Claire created and adopted Learning Outcomes based on LEAP
- 2011: The University Liberal Education Committee (ULEC) held 4 meetings in A&S for faculty/staff to provide input on liberal education
- 2011: ULEC developed a framework to replace the current LE model at UWEC
- 2011: University Senate approved the liberal education principles upon which liberal education reform is based
- 2011-2012: ULEC and the Academic Policies Committee (APC) held a meeting in each of the four colleges for faculty/staff to provide input on liberal education. Input from those meetings and an opportunity to provide additional input is provided on the Undergraduate Studies website: [http://www.uwec.edu/Undergrad/Liberal-Education-Reform.htm](http://www.uwec.edu/Undergrad/Liberal-Education-Reform.htm).
- 2012: APC hosted a roundtable forum at University Senate to solicit input on liberal education reform
- 2012: University Senate passed the addition of “Integrative Learning” as a UWEC liberal education learning goal and corresponding learning outcome
- 2012: APC passed the following revisions to the ULEC proposal for liberal education reform. A continually updated version of the ULEC proposal (showing original, edits, and APC actions) is located on the Undergraduate Studies website: [http://www.uwec.edu/Undergrad/Liberal-Education-Reform.htm](http://www.uwec.edu/Undergrad/Liberal-Education-Reform.htm).
  - Liberal Education Breadth Requirement comprising 18 credits of intentionally designed, integrative learning Arts and Sciences experiences with 6 credits in each of the following three major categories: Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences. At least one course must be a laboratory science course.
  - “Fundamental Skills and Competencies” changed to “Intellectual Foundations”
  - Mathematics and/or Statistics Competency: Competency Examination or one course
  - First-Year Writing Requirement: Fulfillment of first-year writing program outcomes through approved course or equivalent
  - Oral-Communication requirement: at least one course credit or equivalent
  - Ethical Reasoning (one course credit or equivalent). At least one course credit which includes a focus on all the following topics (from the AAC&U Ethical Reasoning VALUE rubric): ethical self-awareness, understanding different ethical perspectives/concepts, ethical issue recognition, application of ethical perspectives/concepts, and evaluation of different ethical perspectives/concepts. A minimum of one credit of the course must be dedicated to these topics.

The following are the remaining components of the ULEC proposal (and university requirements not included in the ULEC proposal) which APC is scheduled to discuss Fall 2012. A revised proposal for liberal education reform is tentatively scheduled to go before the University Senate late Fall 2012.

- Arts and Humanities (2 courses outside the student’s major, at least 6 credits) (see also Integrative Learning above)
- Social Sciences (2 courses outside the student’s major, at least 6 credits) (see also Integrative Learning above)
- Natural Sciences (2 courses outside the student’s major, at least 6 credits) (see also Integrative Learning above)
- Two courses in race, class, and/or gender equity studies. At least one of which will focus on the following ethnic groups in the United States: African-American, Native American, Asian-American, and Latino/a-American consistent with the UW-System’s “Cultural Diversity graduation requirement.
- No more than two courses of the 42 credits of LE course work may be completed from any single departmental or program course prefix
- One global learning course or a study abroad experience
- One immersion experience
- 30 hours of service learning
- Wellness
- Physical Activity
- Foreign Language
- Major-Minor Concentration