Reforming Undergraduate Education at UNLV
Reforms Passed by Faculty Senate

In 2011 the Faculty Senate Passed Two Reforms:

1. University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs)
   – The skills and knowledge that UNLV would provide to all undergraduate

2. Vertically Integrated Curriculum to deliver these UULOs
   – FYS, SYS, Milestone Exp., Culminating Exp.
Vertically Integrated General Education at UNLV

First-Year Seminar
2-3 credits

Second-Year Seminar
3 credits

Milestone Experience

University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes
- English Composition: 6 credits
- US and Nevada Constitutions: 4-6 credits
- Mathematics: 3 credits
- Distribution (outside major): 18-19 credits
  - Fine Arts & Humanities
  - Social Sciences
  - Life and Physical Sciences and Analytical Thinking
- Multicultural and International

University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes
- Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning
- Inquiry and Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Global/Multicultural Knowledge and Awareness
- Citizenship and Ethics

Color code: Gen Ed | Gen Ed/Major | Major

http://generaled.unlv.edu/
Why We Undertook Reform

• Improving quality of our undergraduate education
• Greater Coherence of Gen Ed and Undergraduate Curriculum
• A set of identified, shared learning outcomes (UULOs)
• Branding – A statement of what we value, what we will provide
• The need to demonstrate to outside stakeholders what value we add (e.g., accreditors, Regents)
Staged Implementation

• Fall 2012: Launched First-Year Seminars
  – 10 FYS Courses, 3600+ Students
• Fall 2013: Launched Second-Year Seminars
  – 5 SYS Courses, 1750+ Students this fall
• Fall 2014: Milestone Experiences
  – The focus of today’s discussion
• Fall 2015: Culminating Experiences
  – A discussion for next year
Milestone Experiences

• Introduction and Orientation to Major including:
  – UULOs in degree-relevant terms
  – Non-overlapping Degree Specific Learning Outcomes
  – Roadmap of when and where they will achieve these outcomes
  – Communication and Critical Thinking in degree-relevant form
  – Assessment
Opportunity to Review Your Program

- **Learning outcomes**
  - Balance: Content Knowledge, Skills, Habits of Mind

- **Curriculum Plan**
  - When and how will students encounter outcomes
  - Introduce, Reinforce

- **Assessment Plan**
  - Evidence
  - Improvement (aka: Closing the loop)
Implementation Plan

• Designate responsible party (e.g., undergrad coordinator, assoc. chair, or chair)
• One Mandatory 90-Minute (Lunch) Meeting for Responsible Party
  – Oct. 10, Oct. 28, or Nov. 1
• Two Optional Follow-Up Workshops
  – Dates TBA Nov. & January, each will be repeated
  – Learning Outcomes & Curriculum Planning
  – Milestone Course Design: Transparency, Assignments, and Assessments
Final Product

• Description of your
  – Learning Outcomes
  – Curriculum Map
  – Milestone experience
    • Communication
    • Critical Thinking

• **Not** an Approval Process; a reporting and assessment process
Why are we doing this?

• An **opportunity** to reflect on what you are doing

• With the goal of moving toward a fully integrated, intentional, transparent and effective degree.

• To deliver the best undergraduate degree programs we can.

• To meet and exceed the expectation of our stakeholders, including accreditors.
Next Steps

• Identify responsible member(s) of department by Oct. 4 via Survey Link
• They will attend one mandatory (lunch) milestone meeting (Oct. 10, 28, or Nov. 1)
• Build department milestone implementation plan
• Optional milestone development workshops to be held in November & January
• Milestone plan will be due April 1, 2014