December 20, 2019 – Updated March 17, 2020

To: Academic and advising units
From: Maggie Slattery, Assistant Dean for General Education
Re: Updated guidelines on General Education requirements for transfer and re-enrollment students

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance during continued implementation of General Education requirements, which started in Summer 2018, for students advanced in their coursework, particularly transfer and re-enrollment students.

Generally, all new incoming transfer students will complete the new General Education requirements beginning Summer 2020. Penn State has an obligation to honor articulation agreements, therefore exceptions are permissible for students attending one of the community colleges with whom we have active articulation agreements. The exception should be granted only to students who met the terms of the agreement (e.g. completion of an associate degree and admission to one of the academic programs named in the agreement).

The General Education program year for re-enrolling students should be based on the student’s progress, the date the student was last enrolled, and time-to-degree. Colleges have the ability to make appropriate exceptions per policy 82-60.

The process for requesting a change of General Education year should follow the normal curricular petition process, as determined by the student’s college, and will be reviewed by those who routinely approve General Education exceptions for each academic unit. The recommended method for applying this exception is different from previous recommendations because the degree audit is programmed specifically for major and General Education requirements as new curriculum is approved. For students who are approved to follow the old General Education program, contact the Office of the University Registrar with the student ID so a requirement waiver for Integrative Studies can be applied and a course directive can be used to accommodate Foundations courses (GQ/GWS) for which a grade of D was earned.

Please contact the Office for General Education if there are questions about this recommendation.