

# The General Education Program



*General Education New Faculty Orientation*  
*21 August 2007*



# Higher Education

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- \* why students go to college
- \* not a continuation of high school...
- \* ...but a chance to *become who you are*
- \* learning *more*
- \* learning *different*



# General Education

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- \* not one's major, but broader learning
- \* the “core” of the undergraduate program
- \* two models:
  - \* everyone takes the same thing
  - \* distribution requirements



# *A Very* Brief History of College (1)

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- ❖ medieval monasteries
- ❖ classical curriculum
- ❖ 1850s: Land Grant institutions
- ❖ specialization





# *A Very Brief History of College (2)*

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- ❖ the General Education movement, part one
- ❖ “in loco parentis”
- ❖ 1960s
- ❖ the General Education movement, part two





# AU's Alloy

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- \* a blend, not a synthesis
- \* choice within limits:
  - \* five curricular areas
  - \* diverse course offerings (150 in all), taught by all departments of the university
  - \* program-wide values



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# Six Program Values

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- \* written and oral communication
- \* critical thinking, including information literacy
- \* ethics
- \* aesthetics
- \* perspectives of race, class, culture, and gender
- \* a global point of view



# Five Curricular Areas

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1. The Creative Arts
2. Traditions that Shape the Western World
3. Global and Multicultural Perspectives
4. Social Institutions and Behavior
5. The Natural Sciences



# The Three Rules

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1. Distribution Rule: two courses in each curricular area; both courses from the same “cluster”
2. Sequence Rule: take the foundation course in an area before taking a second-level course in that area
3. Multidisciplinary Rule: no more than two courses offered by a single department



# Things Students Are Wondering

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- \* AP credit: yes, for up to four courses
- \* transfer credit: once enrolled at AU, all courses for General Education credit *must* be taken at AU
- \* pass/fail option: yes
- \* taking courses not for General Education credit: of course!



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