This message comes from the Office of the Provost to all undergraduates at Lock Haven University who will be enrolled in the fall semester 2014 and/or beyond. It contains important information about a revision in the general education requirements and how it will affect you. Please read it closely and consult the materials on the website by following the link in the message below. You may address specific questions to your academic advisor when you prepare to register.

I want to make two points clear at the outset:

1) If you are not graduating in May or August 2014, or have not already completed your general education requirements, **the new requirements will apply to you**. (If you and your advisor believe that you will lose credits or progress toward your degree because of the changes, your advisor may appeal for you to opt out and graduate under the old requirements instead by sending an email with your name, student ID, and short explanation to the Registrar).

2) **General education requirements you have satisfied under the current set of requirements will meet a requirement under the revised curriculum; you will not lose credits.** You will be able to find out how the general education requirements you have completed to date will transfer to the new curriculum by using the ‘cross-walk’ on the website, or, by checking your degree audit in MyHaven about a week from now. The Registrar will notify you when degree audit has been transferred to the new requirements.

What will you find on the new General Education website? (http://www.lhup.edu/majors/generaleducation.html)

1) A check list of the revised general education requirements, together with the number of credits required and (in a pop-up window that appears when your cursor moves over the requirement) the learning outcomes that you will achieve;

2) The third column of the general education check list will contain an icon that will take you to a list of courses approved to meet this requirement; the icon is not present today because the course approvals are still in process, but the icons and lists will be added as soon as the courses that are on the fall schedule are approved.

3) A chart that will tell you how the requirements you satisfied under the current general education curriculum will meet the requirements of the new curriculum.

4) A navigation bar on the left that will take you to a set of requirements for all students in BA degree programs, which were formerly listed under ‘general education’ requirements, and to the ‘University requirement’ of the First-Year Seminar for all students who enter as first-time freshmen as of fall 2014 (it is not retroactive).

What has not changed and what are the most important changes you should watch for in the revised requirements for Baccalaureate degrees (for AA, AS, and AAS please see the new track sheets on the website)?

1) **NO CHANGE** in number of credits required in core general education requirements (42 for baccalaureate degrees)

2) **NO CHANGE** in credit hours required for Written Communication, Oral Communication, and Mathematical and Computational Thinking.

3) **NO CHANGE** in credit hour requirement for Wellness.

4) “Content” areas reduced from 30 credits to 21 credits “Knowledge and Inquiry”: 6 in natural sciences with only one lab course required; 6 in Historical, Behavioral, and Social Sciences Inquiry; 9 in Philosophical, Literary, and Aesthetic Inquiry.

5) **New requirement of 9 credits in Global Awareness and Citizenship:**
a. If you have completed more than 6 credits of general education requirements in history, social and behavioral science, the extra credits will be applied to the Global Awareness and Citizenship requirement;
b. If you have completed more than 9 credits of general education requirements in arts, philosophy, and literature, the extra credits will also be applied to the Global Awareness and Citizenship requirement.

6) Free electives have been moved out of general education requirements. Free electives are courses that you choose to take to fulfill the 120 credits for graduation that are not ‘required’ for your major(s), for completion of a BA degree, or for a University requirement of a freshman seminar effective fall 2014. (A few majors require more than 120 credits due to accreditation; students in these majors may not have room for free electives.)

7) The BA degree requirements for foreign language study and seminars have been moved out of general education; seminar requirement is reduced from three to two.

8) Competencies (formerly ‘overlays’): new curriculum has two writing communication competencies (instead of three writing emphasis overlays), two critical thinking competencies (instead of two information literacy overlays), and two experiential learning units (compares to two external experience units).
   a. Information literacy overlays you have met will count toward the new critical thinking competency.

The current general education curriculum was designed by faculty in the late 1990s to address the needs of graduates entering and leaving college at the turn of the 21st century. It was forward looking and assured a high-quality and broad education in the liberal arts and sciences, together with cultivation of important skills including oral and written communication, multicultural awareness, and information literacy. Now that we are well into the second decade of the 21st century, and in the context of rapidly-changing knowledge and global environments, the faculty last year reviewed the general education curriculum and made revisions they judged necessary both to support your success as citizens of this changing world and, additionally, to articulate and document your learning. The revisions anchor the general education curriculum in essential learning outcomes – statements of what students should know and be able to do when they complete the requirement. The faculty voted to approve the revisions in October of 2013 and, since that time, have been making changes in courses in preparation for implementing the new requirements in fall 2014. Change is never easy, and we will all need to be patient in the transition, but we believe the changes we are making in general education will serve you better for years to come.

Sincerely,
Provost Donna Wilson