**Proposed GE Guiding Principle on Course Levels and Accessibility to All University Students**

Adopted: 2/1/2023

While General Education courses may be offered at both lower division and upper division, and a limited number of courses may be double counted for both General Education and major/minor requirements, it is nevertheless important that General Education courses be open to all University students and designed to be accessible to those with no prior background in a field of study. Moreover, while courses that serve the needs of majors and minors may sometimes also be appropriate for General Education students, there will be other major and minor courses, especially at upper division, which are designed primarily for majors and minors and would not be appropriate for General Education.

Courses proposed and approved for General Education credit should not have prerequisites or enrollment requirements that would prevent enrollment by students who are not in a particular major, minor, or college, except in the Honors College.

A department may sometimes wish to offer a General Education course with specific placement or tracking required (for example, a 100-level course requiring a particular level of math proficiency, or a course targeted for honors students offered outside of the Honors College).  In such cases, the department, whenever possible, should offer parallel tracks or versions of those General Education courses as options for students without those backgrounds or statuses.

Courses offered at the 400 level, which are typically designed for advanced majors or minors in a given area of study, and where co-convened graduate sections are sometimes offered, are the least likely to be accessible to all students across the University. Therefore, such courses should not be proposed or approved as part of the General Education program, unless explicitly designed to be appropriate and beneficial for students who do not have prior coursework in any particular field of study. However, we recognize that 400 level courses may, in certain cases, be designed effectively for multiple audiences, including General Education students alongside majors and minors. While such proposals are not prohibited, the appropriateness and accessibility of the course for General Education students must be clear and compelling. The same considerations may also apply to 300 level courses, although to a lesser degree since they may be less advanced and cannot be co-convened with graduate course sections.