

Why establish a UNIV Advisory Group now?

The General Education Refresh is now entering its fourth year. It's time for review and reflection on an innovative component of the curriculum – the UNIV 101 and 301 courses. To that end, the UNIV Advisory Group is seeking input regarding these two courses, their goals, content, delivery, and impact.

Here's a quick tutorial on the Gen Ed Refresh that centers the review of UNIV 101/301:

- Gen Ed Refresh curriculum implemented in 2022 was designed to:
 - Increase meaningful engagement, perspective taking, reflection, and connection;
 - Explore a breadth of disciplines and facilitate interdisciplinary connections.
- Keys to its success:
 - Enhances student understanding and appreciation of the goals, value, and potential impact of this new GE experience;
 - Demonstrates the role GE plays as an integral part of the student's educational experience.
- Students have reported uncertainty around the value of general education to their academic and professional goals, contributing to less-than-ideal outcomes in Tiers (1998-2022) and Refresh (2022-present) versions of general education.
- UNIV 101 and 301 were created as bookend courses to help students prepare for and reflect upon their general education experience.

UNIV 101: Introduction to General Education

Description: A 1-unit course introducing students to the conceptual foundations of general education (perspective-taking, interdisciplinary thinking, reflection on learning), starting ePortfolios, developing digital literacy practices, and transitioning to the University of Arizona.

When: Students are pre-scheduled into UNIV 101 in their first semester.

Who: Required for students admitted as first-year students; transfer students do not take UNIV 101 or UNIV 301.

Syllabus: [UNIV 101 syllabus](#)

Reader: [Wildcat Perspectives](#)

UNIV 301: General Education Portfolio

Description: A 1-unit course designed to help students reflect upon and make meaning of the general education experience through the refinement of their ePortfolio, as a collection of signature assignments throughout their GE courses.

When: Students can take UNIV 301 after completing UNIV 101; Foundations Math and Writing; and at least five Exploring Perspectives and/or Building Connections courses.

Who: Required for students admitted as first-year students; transfer students do not take UNIV 101 or UNIV 301.

Syllabus: [UNIV 301 syllabus](#)

Reader: [Wildcat Reflections](#)

ePortfolio examples (provided with permission): [Abby's ePortfolio](#); [Dani's ePortfolio](#); [Tylerr's ePortfolio](#); [Aiden's ePortfolio](#)

By the Numbers:

- Piloted Spring 2022 and rolled out for entire first-year cohort in Fall 2022;
- In the last 3.5 years, over 36,000 students have enrolled in a UNIV course;
- 1 UNIV Course Director; 15 full-time Professors of Practice; over 150 part-time instructors from across the university participate in a typical Fall semester.

Teaching Model:

- Full-time UNIV Career-Track Professors of Practice oversee small teams of part-time instructors from across the University;
- Part-time instructor pool includes faculty, advisors and other staff, and adjuncts from the University and the Tucson community;
- Robust hiring and ongoing training process creates a community of practice to help students achieve their academic and professional goals.