**Proposal to Amend General Education Teaching Policy**

*Submitted by UGC Curriculum and Policies subcommittee, 2/25/20*

**Proposed Policy Update:**

(from the “Who Can Teach Gen Ed Courses?” page at<https://gened.arizona.edu/proposal-guidelines/who-can-teach>)

The philosophy behind the [guiding principles](https://academicaffairs.arizona.edu/gened-original-guiding-principles) of the original Faculty-Senate approved plan for the new University-Wide General Education program was that experienced faculty have an increased role in the education of lower-division students. Early contact with such faculty is a hallmark of the new General Education program and is critical to providing students the enriched educational experience implied in the guidelines for Tier One and Tier Two course proposals.

Primary instructors (or instructors of record) in Tier One General Education courses must be faculty members, as defined by the Arizona Board of Regents [policy 6-201](https://public.azregents.edu/Policy%20Manual/6-201-Conditions%20of%20Faculty%20Service.pdf) and have the [required credentials](https://academicaffairs.arizona.edu/hlc-credential-faqs) to teach as determined by the Higher Learning Commission.  Graduate Assistants in Teaching and Graduate Associates in Teaching may serve as secondary instructors - e.g., leaders of labs and discussion sections - provided that they receive preparation and supervision as mandated by the Graduate College.  GATs may serve as instructors of record during a Summer Session or Winter Session in Tier One courses, under [guidelines](https://academicaffairs.arizona.edu/gened-summer-instruction-guidelines) set forth separately.

Primary instructors (or instructors of record) in Tier Two General Education courses may be a faculty member, Graduate Assistant, or Graduate Associate and must have the required credentials to teach as determined by the Higher Learning Commission. Graduate Assistants and Graduate Associates must petition to be appointed as primary instructor, and must meet the following criteria:

* The Department Head and Associate Dean (or Dean’s designee) of the offering department must grant approval for the Graduate Assistant or Graduate Associate’s petition to teach and confirm the GA’s qualification to teach per Higher Learning Commission requirements.
* The Graduate Assistant or Graduate Associate must also meet the proper preparation and supervision as mandated by the Graduate College and outlined in the GA Manual.
* The duties involved in the appointment must be directly aligned with the education and professionalization of the student.

Tier One courses (INDV, NATS, TRAD) are constructed so that a number of faculty members can teach them in different semesters.

Tier Two courses (Individuals & Societies, Natural Sciences, Humanities, Arts) are constructed so that one or more faculty members can teach them.

**Rationale:**

In 1999, when the current General Education program was rolled out, the above policy heavily restricted the teaching opportunities of graduate students to winter and summer sessions. The policy has not been evenly applied or enforced and does not take into account disciplinary differences or departmental needs. The proposed change considers a balance between faculty contact early for undergraduate students while also lifting restrictions on graduate students who are prepared to take on the additional responsibility as Instructor of Record.

**Implementation Plan:**

A 3-year pilot of the petition process for graduate students wishing to teach General Education Tier Two courses will be undertaken. The University Wide General Education Committee will serve as the central repository for completed petitions. At the end of the 3-year pilot, the University should have sufficient data to determine if the petition process should continue, be adjusted, or be halted.

**Proposed Effective Term:**

Fall 2020