

# Advising Notes: by Advisors, for Advisors

## Winter 2018

### General Education Program Reform

by Dr. Darin Ellis, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness

On Friday, Nov. 10, the Board of Governors voted to revise our general education curriculum — the first major update in over 30 years. At the president’s recommendation, the proposal was presented to the board after a lengthy deliberative process. The General Education Reform Committee and the General Education Oversight Committee devoted countless hours to reviewing and redesigning the curriculum in consultation with the Academic Senate.

There are many elements of the new curriculum that will be familiar to academic advisors. The competencies, for instance, are quite similar to the present curriculum – BC, IC and OC remain essentially unchanged. MC is reflected in the new, broader Quantitative Experience (QE). Some of the former group requirements, Social Science and Foreign Culture in particular, are mirrored in the new inquiry areas (e.g. Social Inquiry and Global Learning).

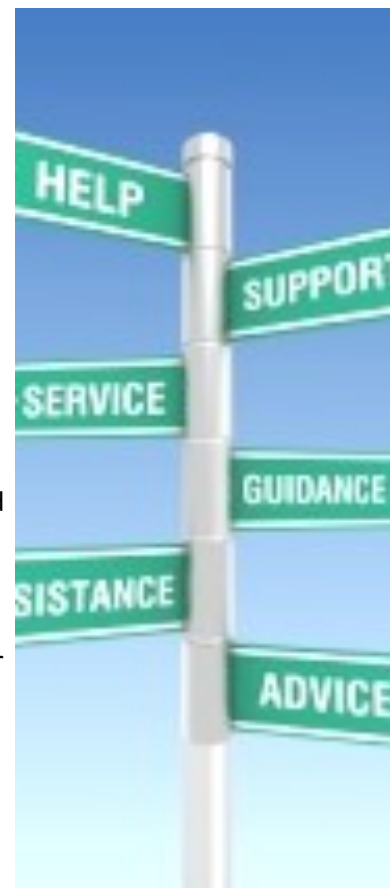
There is much that is different, though. First, the curriculum is more streamlined, consisting of 35 credits— a reduction of 6-8 credits. Additionally, several of the old requirements have been eliminated or combined. Critical Thinking (CT) is no longer a stand-alone category, but is rather expressed as a learning outcome across the general education program, per the AAC&U LEAP\* model that informed the curriculum reform process. Computer Literacy, eliminated in practice a few years ago, is now formally removed. Historical Studies is no longer a stand-alone requirement, but you will see many of the old HS courses represented on the lists of courses that satisfy the new requirements. Visual and Performing Arts and Philosophy and Letters (VP & PL) are combined into a larger arts and humanities area retitled Cultural Inquiry (CI). Two science courses are still required but, by combining the former physical and life sciences group requirements, students have more flexibility. A new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) category explicitly upholds our institutional values, as do Civic Literacy (CL) and Global Learning (GL). Finally, over the next 2 years, we will fully develop a plan to better support students' transition into the Wayne State University academic community via a one-credit course called Wayne Experience (WE).

Beginning in Fall 2018, the updated curriculum will be required for all newly admitted students. Current students will be able to choose between the new requirements and the old requirements under our bulletin-in-effect policy. Students who have already completed their general education requirements or are close to completing them will not benefit from changing to the new program. Those who are not as far along in their academic program, however, may consider the switch after seeking the expert advice of their advisors.

To assist in this transition, the details of the new curriculum requirements will be available on the **Engaging Gen Ed website** as soon as possible, and information about the implementation process will be updated there regularly. Likewise, the UG Bulletin is being revised to reflect the changes, and DegreeWorks tools, such as the “What If” function, are being updated to help students and advisors determine the best degree path for their students.

Personally, I would like to echo the provost’s appreciation for the outstanding work of the GERC, the GEOC, the committees and members of the Academic Senate and everyone else who worked on this for the success of our students! Thank you, all!

\* <http://www.aacu.org/leap/essential-learning-outcomes>



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Advisor Spotlight.....	3
AAC Update .....	6
Introductions .....	4
Student Service Insider.....	3, 5
Top 10 List .....	2
ATA Updates.....	2
Good News.....	6

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## Top 10 Things You Might Not Know About Canvas by Avanti Herczeg, CFPCA

1. A small number of students and faculty are currently testing Canvas as “early adopters.” They are already reporting positive feedback!
2. Can current courses in Blackboard be transferred into Canvas? Yes! Faculty/Staff will be provided information on how to import course content.
3. Canvas was designed by instructors with a focus on *user experience*. Most of the features in Blackboard have equivalent features/names in Canvas.
4. Canvas integrates with Word, PowerPoint and Excel Online.
5. Notifications through Canvas can be received via email, text, and Twitter!
6. Canvas is a cloud-based application maintained by Amazon Web Services, similar to Academica. It currently has a guaranteed uptime of 99.9%. This means less drop/down time often experienced with Blackboard.
7. Amazon Web Services is the same service that powers Amazon.com, Netflix, and Spotify!
8. All of Canvas is compatible with mobile devices running iOS or Android and can access most features.
9. Blackboard will be available for reference until August 2018 and will no longer be used after the Summer 2018 semester. All course content will be available in Canvas beginning with the Fall 2018 semester.
10. Canvas training is currently available. Register for a training session at: [go.wayne.edu/canvastraining](http://go.wayne.edu/canvastraining)

Have any questions regarding Canvas? Send an email to [imsadmin@wayne.edu](mailto:imsadmin@wayne.edu)

## Advisor Training Academy UPDATE

By Kate Bernas, ATA

The ATA had another successful round of Level 1 modules this October, which brings our total of Level 1-certified advisors to 66. Our Level 2 certifications have grown to 16 total, with a projection of steady growth this year. Advisors interested in how to earn Level 2 certification can contact me anytime about the process ([ab9599@wayne.edu](mailto:ab9599@wayne.edu)).

The ATA continues to be heavily involved with Advising Works training throughout campus. There has been a steady need for basic training as new advisors are hired and various student service offices acquire access. Interest in the ability to search and filter for specific populations of students and how this can be used to promote services and programs has been high among student service offices such as Career Services, the WSU librarian staff, and student success coaches affiliated with the new VIP program. Other offices will come on board throughout the upcoming year as well. Advisors can also expect additional Advising Works training in the area of

student success markers and predicted risk factors. You will be notified soon about these training times.

The new General Education program is the other ATA training topic that has been foremost in most advisors' minds. The team of Gen Ed trainers will provide training to all UG advisors in January 2018 with more updates disseminated throughout the spring. See Dr. Ellis' article on page 1 for some good information on Gen Ed 2018.

The ATA's Supportive Communication Series continues in January with a training on working with foreclosed and other challenging student situations. Dr. Marquita Chamblee from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will round out the series with a workshop in February. Stay tuned for more information early in 2018!

## Advisor Spotlight: Colleen McKenney

*By Tracy Castle, College of Engineering*



Colleen joined Wayne State University as a computer science advisor for the College of Engineering in 2012. She earned a bachelor's degree in vehicle design from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in counseling from Oakland University. Both her educational background and her first career in the auto industry as a design engineer prepared her for her role advising engineering students. This unique background makes her relatable to students because she's able to provide industrial insight as well as strong academic advising.

You may not see Colleen on campus as often as other advisors because she splits her time between main campus, Macomb Community College (MCC) University Center, and ATEC extension centers. She is the welcoming face of Wayne State engineering, providing general information about all engineering programs to prospective MCC transfer students. However, her main role at extension centers is advising prospective and current computer science students in Macomb County. As a transfer student herself, Colleen understands the many challenges in transitioning from a community college to a university. She is passionate about helping these students make an informed, efficient and a smooth transition to the university. Her presence at the extension centers has contributed to the growth in computer science transfer students at Wayne State University.

On a personal note, Colleen enjoys spending time traveling to warm, sunny beaches with her daughter Keeley. She has a collection of sea glass and sea shells from her long walks on Florida beaches. These collections capture warm memories that help her survive Michigan winters!

## Student Service Insider: Career Services

*By Padmaja Rao, Assistant Director, Career Services*

Do your students need advice on how to find a job? Career Services is committed to assisting WSU students and alumni successfully transition from academia to the workforce and connecting them to various levels of employment opportunities based on their values, skills, and experiences. Through five distinct program areas, the department provides services, resources, and events that are beneficial for students and alumni to use when searching for employment.

**Career Planning:** Career Services provides a wide variety of career planning services to assist Wayne State University students and alumni. It is our goal to assist individuals and groups with the career exploration process as it relates to career options, academic preparation, occupational research, decision making, goal setting, and implementation. Some of the assessments that students are able to take through the Career Services office include Barriers to Employment Success Inventory (BESI), Career Exploration Inventory (CEI), Career Thoughts Inventory (CTI), and O\*NET Career Values Inventory.

**Student Employment:** There are two avenues to obtain on-campus employment. The first is through the College Work Study route whereby students who receive a work-study award from WSU's Office of Student Financial Aid can obtain federal work-study jobs. Assistance is available in matching student interests to jobs, and postings may be viewed in the Career Services Office or on Handshake. The second way to obtain on-campus employment is by applying to Student Assistant positions which are posted both in-office and online (keep reading for Handshake logon instructions).

**Internship & Part-Time Employment:** Internship and part-time employment situations provide temporary work opportunities that may or may not relate to the student's interest, academic major or career goals. Typically, assignments involve paid, hands-on experiential learning, and can potentially lead to future career opportunities.

**Cooperative Education:** Wayne State University's Cooperative Education Program is designed to provide students with paid career-related experience aligned with their academic area of study. These job assignments encompass professional-level work and involve assigning students to a particular department or project within an organization. The program is available to most students who meet specific criteria including, but not limited to, a minimum 2.0 GPA and junior class standing. Upon completion of a co-op assignment, students will receive official transcript acknowledgement of their participation.

**Full-Time Employment:** Career Services offers students and alumni various resources to assist with obtaining full-time employment. As a full-time job candidate, we invite you to connect with employers by participating in job fairs, special career events, interviewing and networking opportunities, as well as exploring employment opportunities that are specific to WSU's graduating seniors and alumni.

**(continued on pg. 4)**

(continued from pg. 3)

### How Can Students Meet with a Career Services Counselor?

Students needing job/career assistance are welcome to stop by the office during Stop-In hours to meet with a career counselor. No appointment is necessary, but students seeking a specific day and time for stop-in counseling are encouraged to call the office regarding counselor availability. Stop-In Counseling details are at: <http://careerservices.wayne.edu/stop-in-counseling.php>.

Students can also schedule a more in-depth appointment with a counselor. Students should inform the receptionist of the type of assistance they are seeking (i.e., career planning, student employment, internship) so they are routed to the appropriate counselor.

### Where are the Job Opportunities Housed?

In Fall 2017, Career Services launched a new database called **Handshake**. Handshake is WSU's new gateway to finding internships, co-op, part- and full-time employment opportunities. Current WSU students have automatically been added to Handshake, so it's a matter of simply activating their account by logging into Handshake once.

### Instructions to Activate Your Handshake Account:

1. Go to <https://wayne.joinhandshake.com/>
2. Enter your Wayne State email address (example: ab1234@wayne.edu)
3. Click on the blue Wayne State University Sign On box
4. Enter your WSU Academica ID (example: ab1234) and password

Encourage your students to connect  
with WSU Career Services!

1001 Faculty Administration Bldg.  
313-577-3390  
[careerservices.wayne.edu](http://careerservices.wayne.edu)

## Introductions: Jay Jessen, Mike Ilitch School of Business

*By Stacie Moser, CLAS*

Jay Jessen comes to the Wayne State University advising community with a rich background in higher education. In fact, he has spent nearly a decade in the realm of student affairs. His most recent positions include admissions manager for the nursing program at University of Detroit Mercy and Program Center manager for Northwood University. In both positions, he was able to do a small amount of advising which he really enjoyed. Eager to make a transition to an advising position at a large university, Jay feels like he has really found his niche as an advisor for the Mike Ilitch School of Business where he advises global supply chain management and information systems management majors. One of the most rewarding aspects of his job is the ability to really help students as they navigate WSU.

Jay earned his undergraduate degree at Western Michigan University in Geography and Environmental Research. Last fall, he began coursework in the Master of Education in Learning Design and Technology program. Upon graduation, he would like to teach a section of BA 1000, a student success and career development course for business majors. Jay would also like to assist the school in instructional design as more online courses are being developed in the Mike Ilitch School of Business.

When not advising, Jay has plenty of things to keep him busy; he is a collector of antique cameras (his current collection has over 200 different models). Interestingly enough, other than his cell phone, Jay does not own a digital camera and prefers to take pictures with a Nikon camera. He has previously done workshops with students on how to build a pinhole camera, which can be made out of a shoebox or coffee can. He is also an avid outdoorsman. Raised in Iron Mountain, Jay enjoys hiking, biking, and kayaking. His family also owns a Christmas tree farm in Wisconsin, so holidays are very important to him. He is able to fly home to visit his family every holiday break.

With his wealth of experience and knowledge in student affairs, Jay is a welcome addition to the WSU advising community. I am confident that he will make a significant and lasting impact on the students he serves.



## Student Service Insider: Warrior Vision & Impact Program (VIP)

By Cody Bailey-Crow

The Warrior Vision & Impact Program launched in the Winter 2017 semester with a mission to support incoming freshman students who met certain criteria, most notably, first-generation status.

One of the primary goals of VIP is to provide pre-college support to these students. With the help of Admissions, VIP identified students who met their selection criteria and invited them to attend a number of presentations from important campus offices, including the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE), Housing, Financial Aid, Academic Advising, and the Dean of Students Office (DOSO). These pre-college events helped students better understand the services offered on campus and also served as an excellent networking event and an opportunity to meet other students similar to themselves; in other words, a way to develop a network of support before ever stepping foot into a college classroom.

In addition to the pre-college programming, VIP students were further assisted once they arrived on campus by a network of 28 peer mentors. These peer mentors represent a group of highly successful and motivated students, all of whom participated in a training process and continue to develop as student leaders by attending professional development events throughout the semester. Kenya Swanson, the Coordinator for VIP, points to the selection and training of these peer mentors as one of the key elements of the program during its initial rollout this fall. Kenya states that VIP, in addition to helping first-generation students, “is also about peer mentors and helping to turn them into the students they want to be.” She goes on to describe the peer mentors as “a diverse and dynamic group.”

Another major success for VIP this fall has been the support of WSU faculty, academic staff, campus support services, and academic departments. In addition, learning communities are involved as well, with many students participating in both VIP and one or more WSU learning community. The support these various groups and individuals have provided has gone a long way toward getting the VIP students involved on campus during their first semester. In fact, Kenya has observed that those students who have interacted with these supporting

individuals and units have been among the most involved VIP students this term.

Like any new program, Warrior VIP has not been without its issues. The principal issue the program faces moving forward is recruiting students. While there is capacity to support nearly 250 students, the program currently supports a population closer to 100. While growth is expected, Kenya asks an important question, “how do you get students on board and how [do you] get them to buy into the great services that have been set up?” Warrior VIP intends to continue working with Admissions to identify the right students for the program and will work hard to advertise the benefits of the program to those students.

As this first cohort of students now moves into its second semester, VIP hopes the students will continue to make use of the campus resources they have been exposed to over the past year. VIP will continue to support these students in that effort. The partnerships Warrior VIP has set up with units across campus should maximize the possibility that VIP students find the right resources sooner rather than later. And students who demonstrate “growth and leadership” during this critical first year will be invited to serve as peer mentors for future VIP students.

Finally, with an eye on future enhancements, Warrior VIP will be informed by on-going assessment. VIP is looking at the utilization of services by students participating in the program as well as the performance of VIP students compared to their peers who did not participate in the program. Future goals for the program include a college lifespan support system, from the time of admission through graduation. Kenya puts it best by stating, “ultimately, graduation is the key for all of our students.” If these students continue to receive and utilize the support offered by VIP, one can only assume that graduation will certainly follow.

For additional information about Warrior VIP, please visit their website: <https://wayne.edu/orientation/vip> or feel free to contact Kenya directly by email ([ae4082@wayne.edu](mailto:ae4082@wayne.edu)) or by phone (313-577-3224).

# Academic Advising Council Update

By Stephanie Chastain, President

Thank you to everyone who played a role in making the 2017 WSU Advising Summit a success. The AAC would like to give special thanks and recognition to Kim Morgan (CLAS) for the time and effort put into organizing the event and everything she has done for the AAC. Next year's summit will be organized by Robert Hellar (EACPHS), our newly appointed Summit Committee Chair. We look forward to seeing what his leadership will bring!

During the business meeting portion of the summit, we asked for advisor feedback on how the AAC can best represent them and address their needs. We would like to thank everyone for participating and for their honest feedback. We are currently reviewing the data and determining which areas to focus on for the next semester. A couple areas we addressed immediately were quick access to the advisor directory and the school and college representation of AAC members ([advisortraining.wayne.edu/aac](http://advisortraining.wayne.edu/aac)). If you did not participate in the business meeting or would still like to share, please contact me for the survey link.

51 advisors took advantage of the awesome opportunity to get off campus and ride the Detroit Princess. Everyone had a great time playing cards, dancing, and eating, even though there wasn't any sunshine. The Communication Committee, chaired by Desmond Mack (UAC), put together a video that highlighted the boat trip shenanigans.

The Training Committee, chaired by Ryan Ferrante (CLAS), put on a successful ESS and Promotion workshop specifically geared toward advisors in October. The committee plans to offer this workshop to advisors every fall semester. The workshop was held in response to the advising community's feedback about the need to focus solely on advising specific responsibilities instead of including all positions under the academic staff category. Additionally, the Training Committee's New Advisor Liaison program provided resources to the recently hired academic advisors in the School of Nursing. Please contact Ryan Ferrante prior to the start date when an advisor is hired in your department or unit to allow for a smooth transition into the WSU advising community.

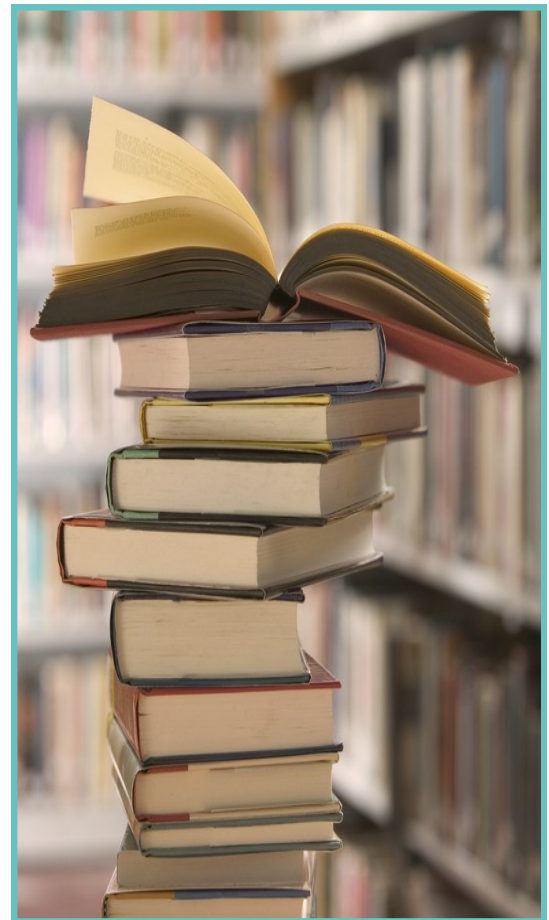
The Advisor Meet Ups have been a great way to network with colleagues in a relaxed atmosphere. The past couple events were at Cass Café and Woodbridge Pub. Keep a lookout for the next date and location to be announced!

## Call for Conference Session Reviewers

Are you planning to attend one of the upcoming advising conferences this year? If so, please consider volunteering as conference session reviewer.

- *Great Lakes Student Success Conference – Feb 15 & 16 at the Detroit Marriott (hosted by Oakland University)*
- *NACADA Region V Conference – April 11-13 in Columbus, Ohio*
- *MIACADA Annual Conference – May 18 in Dearborn, MI (hosted by HFCC)*

Reviewers will be asked to take notes for a one session of their choice and turn in a report to the Training Committee. Reports from each conference will be compiled and shared with the WSU advising community. For more information or to sign up as volunteer reviewer, contact Desmond Mack, AAC Training Committee, [ef2085@wayne.edu](mailto:ef2085@wayne.edu).



## Good News

Where is Elizabeth Kondrat?  
Elizabeth, academic advisor in the Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, shares the “good news” that she got married this past September and has changed her name to Elizabeth Hill.

Congratulations, Elizabeth, and thanks for update!

We want to hear your “Good News!” Please send along any personal or professional highlights from the past term; accomplishments, milestones, and other life events. Submit information to Kate Bernas at [ab9599ab9599@wayne.edu](mailto:ab9599ab9599@wayne.edu).