Draft Survey for Student Feedback on new PLEJ (Power, Liberation, Equity, and Justice) GURs

By the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) and Committee for Undergraduate Education (CUE)

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey on General University Requirements (GUR’s). Feedback is key in updating GUR’s to more accurately serve the students of WWU. We designed this survey in collaboration with the ASWWU Student Senate to ask for your input on the current proposal for a revision of the Comparative Gender and Multicultural (ACGM & BCGM) GUR’s to become Power, Liberation, Equity, and Justice (PLEJ as in WWU’s pledge to actively anti-racist curriculum) GUR’s. The purpose of converting the ACGM & BCGM GUR’s into PLEJ is to more directly address issues of systemic, racial, and structural inequity. The survey is expected to take 10-20 minutes to complete.

(WE NEED TO PUT A DISCLAIMER THAT THEY WON’T HAVE TO DO PLEJ TOO IF THEY ALREADY DID ACGM/BCGM OR THAT THIS WON’T HAPPEN UNTIL 2024-25 – so they can rest assured – if they don’t know this, that could severely impact their responses/feedback on the survey)

Insert link to document explaining what this all even is or means...

I am in my 1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th + year (Dropdown)

What college are you enrolled in? (Dropdown + N/A option)

Have you completed your ACGM and BCGM GUR’s yet? (Yes/No/In Progress or N/A)

-----Page Break-----

These questions will help us evaluate student support for different options regarding how the content of the new courses is defined.

Note: We understand that there are many moving pieces in replacing a GUR with more up-to-date curriculum, so please evaluate each item in terms of what you support:

1. Select to what extent you support each of the following: Likert table (Strongly support, support, neither support nor oppose, oppose, strongly oppose)

   a) Phasing out our focus on “diversity” and “multiculturalism,” which tends to become performative, in favor of a system that more directly addresses systemic, racial, and structural inequity.

   b) Eliminating the restriction that the Humanities GUR addresses only “Western cultural traditions,” to incorporate more inclusive, cross-cultural, and intersectional concepts that are not limited to the West.

   c) Introducing a new focus on Power, Liberation, Equity and Justice (PLEJ) instead of ACGM’s & BCGM’s.

   d) Building a developmental approach into the new GUR structure (i.e. PLEJ 1 courses as prerequisites for PLEJ 2 courses).

   e) PLEJ-1 courses which would use race, racism, and anti-racism in the U.S. as the primary lens to learn and understand concepts and systemic theories of power, discrimination, and oppression. (Model A)
f) PLEJ-1 courses in which any marginalized, underserved identity group or community in the U.S. could serve as the primary lens for examining concepts and systemic theories of power, discrimination, and oppression; for example, courses that focus on gender, sexuality, religion, disability, etc. (Model B)

g) PLEJ-2 courses that give students an opportunity to extend, deepen, and apply the knowledge they have gained in the foundational course. These courses could focus on identities, cultures, events, organizations, institutions, policies, texts, etc. in the U.S. and/or the larger world.

2. Which model would you prefer for PLEJ-1 courses? (Slider between Model A and Model B with descriptions) (Include check box for neither is acceptable?)

3. Please explain or comment on your responses regarding the content and focus of a revised GUR.

----Page Break------

These questions will help us evaluate student support how the requirement could be structured, including how credits could be allocated among GURs and/or graduation requirements.

Note: In each of these structures, some courses currently in the AGCM & BCGM GURs could transition or be adapted to become PLEJ courses and/or move to the Humanities (HUM) or Social Sciences (SSC) GUR categories.

4. Select to what extent you could provisionally support each of the following:

Likert table (Strongly support, support, neither support nor oppose, oppose, strongly oppose)

a. A new PLEJ GUR category replaces the CGM category. Students would take a PLEJ-1 and PLEJ-2 course just as they now take an ACGM and BCGM course. Credits in other GUR categories would not change. (Structure 1)

b. Qualifying GUR courses are tagged (TELL THEM: WHAT DOES TAGGED MEAN?) as PLEJ-1 or PLEJ-2. It is likely that most of these courses would come from humanities and social science GURs. Therefore, credits would increase from 12 credits to 16 credits in each of these categories (no net change in GUR credits). (Structure 2)

c. A PLEJ GUR category is added for PLEJ 1 courses. A second PLEJ-2 course would become a graduation requirement that students could fulfill by taking either a “tagged” GUR course primarily in the Humanities, Social Sciences categories or a “tagged” course in the major. This option would not increase current humanities or social science credits but would incentivize development of PLEJ courses across the university. (Structure 3)

5. Which structure would you favor for a PLEJ GUR?

(Rank 3 structures drag and drop)

6. Please explain or comment on your responses regarding this revised GUR structure.

7. Do you have any other feedback you would to include in this survey?

8. Do you wish to learn more about converting the ACGM & BCGM GUR’s to PLEJ? (Yes/No)
If so, (Insert date, time, and link for a public forum open to all WWU students)

(We NEED an info session to follow up on this survey, or even BEFORE this survey – or both?)

Thank you for your participation in this survey. The results will be made available to all students as part of the ongoing consultation and proposal development.

If you would like to engage in further conversation about these issues, we will be consulting with students in the coming months through meetings with the AS Student Senate, campus-wide surveys, public forums that are open to all WWU students like the one listed above, and other methods. If you wish to contact us with any questions, concerns, or comments, please email us at xxx@xxxxxx

--- End, and Thank You-----

Implementation question – do we need to/want to attempt to restrict people to taking the survey only one time? (YES)