

Advisor's Survival Kit for 2013-2014

1) What programs are available to which students?

Incoming transfer students: Transfer students starting at UWSP in Fall 2013 will normally enter under the GEP and the new majors (including Communication and Capstone—catalog year Fall 2013).

Exceptions:

- Students who have been continuously enrolled in the UW System can **opt** to complete the GDRs instead of the GEP. Students will need to visit Registration & Records to request this.
- Students entering with a previous Bachelor degree or Associate degree from a UW institution, or a “liberal arts track” Associate degree from a Wisconsin Technical College are considered to have **satisfied all** GEP requirements except for those embedded in the major.
- In some cases, departments **can** allow a transfer student to declare an “old” major (catalog year earlier than Fall 2013).

Incoming First-Year Students: All NEW students beginning in 2013-2014 will complete the GEP and a “new” major (catalog year Fall 2013 or later). Note: the First Year Seminar (FYS) is optional until 2018. Until then, students who do not complete the FYS will complete 3 additional credits at the Investigation Level.

Continuing Students (already at UWSP by Spring of 2013)

These students will continue to be enrolled in the old (GDR) system, but will have the option to switch to the GEP. (The change cannot actually be made until the program is launched in Fall 2013.) A student who takes this option **must** also switch to a “new” major (catalog year Fall 2013).

Eventually, advisors will have the ability to “shop” a DPR to help in determining whether changing programs would benefit the student. If students inquire about switching before this function is available, an advisor willing to take the time can use the GEP diagram and list of approved courses to map the student’s completed requirements. As a rule of thumb, a student is more likely to benefit from switching if they have more requirements still to complete in these GDR categories: Humanities and Social Science, Natural Science, and History.

Undecided students who decide on a major during 2012-13 can declare that major now, and it may be simpler for them to do so. Students declaring a major in 2013-14 will default to the “new” major, which may be credit-intensive when combined with the GDRs. Departments can allow a continuing student to declare an “old” major, but the change will have to be entered by Registration and Records.

For students who are eligible to choose between GDR and GEP, the change will be made by the Registrar’s Office. Departments will continue to enroll students in majors.

A student can complete any of these combinations:

- the new GEP and a “new” major
- the old GDRs and an “old” major
- the old GDRs and a “new” major

No student can combine the “new” GEP with an “old” major.

2) What are the most important things to know when advising students in the GEP?

Math 100 does **not** satisfy the Quantitative Literacy requirement. Only students who need more advanced mathematics or want/expect to take additional math courses should be advised into Math 100. For many students whose majors do not require specific math courses, Math 105 will be the most appropriate course.

All students should take either English 101 or English 150 (according to placement) during their **first year**. Students in placed into English 101 should then take English 202 in their **second** year.

Encourage students to take **Communication 101** early. All courses in the Foundation Level should be completed by the time the student has earned 60 credits.

During the first five years of the GEP (2013-2018), a **First-Year Seminar** is optional. If opted for, the FYS must be taken during the first year, normally in the first semester. (A limited number of sections will be available in the Spring.) If a student completes 30 credits before taking an FYS, the FYS requirement will no longer appear in the DPR. (In this case, the DPR will also change the required number of credits to 24 in the Investigation Level.)

Currently, there are no 1-credit courses that satisfy the **Wellness** requirement.

The GEP Resource Page maintained by the Academic Affairs Office has a list of approved courses in all GEP categories. Consult this online list for the most current information.

The 21-credit requirement at the **Investigation Level** means that each student will take two courses in two of the categories. There are no restrictions on how students select the two courses (except for courses that have prerequisites): They can be in the same department or not, and Historical Perspectives courses do not have to form a sequence.

A course with two GEP designations (e.g. Humanities and U.S. Diversity) will satisfy both requirements. A single course can also meet both a GEP requirement and a major requirement.

A student can satisfy the **Interdisciplinary Studies** requirement either with a single Interdisciplinary Studies course or by completing a major, minor, or certificate that has Interdisciplinary Studies designation.

A student can satisfy the **Experiential Learning** requirement either with by taking a course with Experiential Learning designation or by completing an approved Experiential Learning Activity (ELA). Forms and guidelines for approval and recording of Experiential Learning Activities are under development.

The good news:

Many aspects of advising remain the same. DPRs will say “OK” or “NO” to indicate which requirements have been completed, placement information for Math courses and Freshman English will show up, transfer courses and AP credits will appear in appropriate places, etc.