The Tennessee Board of Regents has embarked on a General Education Program Review & Re-visioning project, which is the first system-level formal review since the current general education program became TBR Policy in 2004.

The current general education program comprises 41 hours (out of 60 for the associate’s degree) from six categories: Communication 9; Humanities/Fine Arts 9; Social/Behavioral Sciences 6; History 6; Natural Sciences 8; Mathematics 3. Each category contains a list of courses by college, which will satisfy the requirements for such category.

On February 12, 2019, the chief academic officer, an academic administrator, and a faculty member from each of the thirteen community colleges convened at the System office to begin the process of...

1) revising the philosophy of general education.
2) developing a clear structure of general education global learning outcomes, determining category appropriateness, and constructing a framework that best meets the needs of all student populations, disciplines, and pathways.
3) building a multi-year plan for implementation that aligns with the ongoing work at the nine public universities in the state, addressing specific needs of the Tennessee Transfer Pathway model as well as general transfer dynamics.

On April 16, the CAO and 3-5 faculty members from each of the 13 community colleges met to examine and explore innovative gen ed models, challenge assumptions and existing structures, and engage in cross-disciplinary exercises in determining and mapping global learning outcomes to general education courses.

On June 4, 2019, TBR sent a team comprising two college CAOs, two faculty members, and one system administrator to Association of American Colleges & Universities’ Summer Institute for General Education & Assessment. At the Institute, the team began to build a professional support network and leverage the Institute’s extensive experience and comprehensive knowledge base on general education reform. Team members learned from peer institutions who have successfully navigated the gen ed reform process, gained exposure to innovative theory, and learned effective design & implementation practices to inform their work. As a culminating activity on June 7, the team presented a five-year action plan to the Institute Faculty and a peer cohort group. **Year 1** of such plan includes the following:

- **Fall 2019** – Establish the committee structure with ten members from each college to include faculty from multiple disciplines, librarians, advisors, student affairs staff, institutional effectiveness staff, and academic administrators from institutions and the System office.
- **Spring 2020** – Facilitate a General Education Academy consisting of the 135 members of the combined campus committees.
- Construct a comprehensive project management plan that includes milestones, resources, stakeholders, and interdependent relationships between each.
- Identify the global learning outcomes, aligned with our philosophy of general education that will become the foundation of a system-wide general education program.
- Sustain communication with THEC and nine public institutions in TN regarding our/their ongoing general education development to maintain strong Tennessee Transfer Pathways (TTPs).

The TBR Academic Affairs Sub-Council approved the committee structure at its quarterly meeting on July 16. The chief academic officers will start building their teams when faculty return for the fall 2019 term.

In addition to renovating the gen ed framework, TBR seeks to effectively communicate the value of a holistic and integral general education program to students and community. Any reform must answer the question: How do we demonstrate its relevance, purpose, and benefit to the student’s personal and professional goals?