ONU General Education Program
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the ONU General Education Program?**

The university's general education program strives to enable students to build proficiency in seven outcomes: effective communication (both written and non-written); critical and creative thinking; scientific and quantitative literacy, an understanding of diverse cultures and their effects on human interaction; integration of concepts across disciplines; informed and ethical responses to personal, civic, and global needs; and informed responses to aesthetics in art or nature.

Students are required to take four courses as part of the general education program: Writing Seminar (English 1221 or 1231), a college specific freshman transition experience course (TREX 1001, BIZ 1001, ENGR 1041, or PHPR 1001), an extradisciplinary seminar course (EXDS 2001), and the capstone course which varies by program.

2. **What is a tagged course?**

Currently, over 275 courses are identified as addressing one or more of the seven general education learning outcomes. These courses are known as “tagged”. Tagged courses are listed in a master file on the General Education webpage on the university’s website. To find this page, open the onu.edu website and click on the “A-Z” index in the upper right-hand corner. Select “G” for “General Education for Students and Faculty”. On this page, you will also find instructions to complete a search for specific sections of courses that are tagged via the registrar’s “Schedule/Catalog Search”. In the registrar’s computer database, the learning outcomes are known as “attributes”. Thus, you can use the “Schedule/Catalog Search” to find all courses offered at 9:00 a.m. on MWF that are tagged for aesthetics by selecting the attribute “Aesthetics” in the attribute’s drop down menu. Instructions for using the search feature are on the “General Education for Students and Faculty” webpage.

3. **What do I need to do in order to complete the general education program?**

Students need to complete the four required classes of the general education program (see Question #1) and additional coursework that is tagged for various general education learning outcomes. The student has completed the general education program when he or she has accumulated 20 artifacts in an electronic portfolio and the artifacts are distributed appropriately amongst the seven outcomes. The distribution requirement for the artifacts and outcomes is most clearly identified on the General Education Checksheet. The checksheet is accessed on the General Education for Students and Faculty webpage. To find this page, open the onu.edu website and click on the “A-Z” index in the upper right-hand corner. Select “G” for “General Education for Students and Faculty”.

4. **What is an artifact?**

An artifact is a record of the individual student’s work, such as a quiz, homework assignment, test question, essay, research paper, Powerpoint presentation, recording, etc. The artifact must be converted to an electronic format and uploaded into an electronic portfolio. The portfolio is known as
Taskstream, the vendor that provides this service to Ohio Northern. Electronic scanners are available for student usage in the Heterick Library. Ask the front desk clerk for assistance.

5. How do I know which artifacts I have completed?

Currently, students can log into Taskstream (see question #6) and see the artifacts submitted thus far. Each student will also receive a semester update report via email. Students can then manually track their progress using the General Education Checksheet available on the General Education for Students and Faculty website. (To find this page, open the onu.edu website and click on the “A-Z” index in the upper right-hand corner. Select “G” for “General Education for Students and Faculty”.) The university will continue to work on this project to identify more efficient report styles.

6. How do I access Taskstream?

The Taskstream portfolio is accessed via the onu.edu webpage titled “General Education for Students and Faculty”. (To find this page, open the onu.edu website and click on the “A-Z” index in the upper right-hand corner. Select “G” for “General Education for Students and Faculty”.) Students and faculty should log in using an ONU issued Luminis username and password.

7. I have transfer work. How does that affect the general education program?

For every 6 credit hours that a student has transferred from another institution to his or her Ohio Northern academic record, that student is eligible to waive out of one artifact requirement. The transferred credit hours must be applicable to the student’s academic program. A student must still complete the four required courses of the general education program and there are limitations as to how many waivers can be applied. Please refer to the General Education Checksheet to see how the waivers can be applied to the 20 artifacts (see Question #3 regarding the checksheet). Note: A student who transferred to ONU as a sophomore or junior can work with the academic unit and the registrar’s office to see if the Writing Seminar and the Freshman Transition Experience courses can be transferred or waived.