Cowboy Compass Trail Guidelines for Faculty Trail Blazers

March 2024

Cowboy Compass brings coherence to the existing General Education (GE) system by establishing outcomes-based learning objectives, providing the foundation needed for specialized study and professional success, and creating cross-disciplinary student cohorts. Cowboy Compass Trails thematically organize GE courses around 'big questions,' designed using faculty expertise and drawn from OSU's strategic plan areas, UN sustainability goals, or other key contemporary issues. Students may earn a certificate in a Trail while meeting their GE and overall degree plan requirements.

The Logistics:

1. Trail topics will reflect big questions or grand challenges. They may be drawn from strategic areas, UN sustainability goals, or other key contemporary issues where OSU faculty or departments have expertise.
2. Trails should be accessible and appeal to a broad range of students – encompassing a mix of breadth and depth. Faculty Trail Blazers will be required to demonstrate how the proposed curriculum fits within several degree programs.
3. Anticipate creating approximately 30 Trails total, built via cross-disciplinary/cross-college faculty expertise groups.
4. Trail course sets should relate thematically.
5. Each Trail should include courses from at least two colleges – more if possible.
6. Plans should encourage each student to take courses across multiple colleges.
7. **Trails will be built initially from existing GE approved courses.** All courses in a Trail must have a GE designation. Plan for a minimum of 15 hours to meet current certificate requirements (minimum 15 hours, 16 for financial aid eligibility).
8. Each Trail should include a minimum of 3 GE core designation requirements (not including the L designation) and can be planned to meet all GE core designation requirements. Trails are not required to encompass all GE requirements.
9. Central Trails course lists should focus on lower division GE foundational courses (1000 and 2000 level) as much as possible.
10. Trail Blazers should plan for a pool of 1-5 Introductory courses to a Trail.
11. Trail Blazers should plan for pool of 1-5 Culminating courses to a Trail.
12. Courses can appear in multiple pools if they have more than one designation.
13. A Trail *may* include the required English Composition, U.S. History, or U.S. Government courses but must also meet the other GE minimum requirements.
14. Courses should include applied and high impact approaches throughout the Trail course set.
15. Culminating courses/experiences should be trans-, multi, and/or interdisciplinary and should ideally include applied, experiential learning, or high impact practices. If not currently GE or inclusive of the above elements, plans for course creation or revision should be outlined in the cover sheet. <u>At least one current GE approved course must be included at first submission.</u> Note that students are likely to take culminating Trail courses/experiences starting in their sophomore year.

16. All courses included in a Trail should be accompanied by a short justification about the course's relevance to the Trail's theme and/or learning objectives.
17. Departments will manage/support Trails with a key department contact. Faculty Trail groups should identify a managing department and key contact person.
18. Opportunities to revise, add, and remove classes, to close down or initiate new Trails, and to revise course content to meet Trail intent will be available as the system is in place via the curricular approval process.

Taking a Trail (in Summary)

- All Trail courses must be GE designated.
- Each student's Trail courses (including the Introductory and Culminating courses/experiences) must encompass at least three different GE designations.
- Each student in a Trail will take both an Introductory Course and a Culminating Course/Experience.
- Each student will take at least 9 credits of Central Trail Courses - Central Trail course lists should focus on lower division GE foundational courses (1000 and 2000 level) as much as possible.
- A student's Central Trail Courses cannot all have the same GE designation nor should they be taken from or housed in the same department or college. Students will be encouraged to take courses across multiple colleges.
- Each Trail will consist of a minimum of 15 credit hours, meeting the requirements for a certificate.

Cowboy Compass Base Trail

(15 or more credits encompassing at least three different GE designations)

Introductory Course: 3-4 credits

1000 or 2000 Level GE Designated Course

Provides introduction to and motivation for the Trail.

Faculty Trail Blazers should select a pool of 1-5 courses.

Central Trail Courses

Students will choose at least 9 credit hours from several pools of GE designated courses.

Faculty Trail Blazers should minimize the inclusion of upper division courses in this section.

1st GE Designated Option Pool	2nd GE Designated Option Pool	3rd GE Designated Option Pool	*OPTIONAL Designated Option Pool*
Identify 2 or more course options with this designation. Students will select 1 course.	Identify 2 or more course options with this designation. Students will select 1 course.	Identify 2 or more course options with this designation. Students will select 1 course.	*Identify 1 or more course options with this designation. Students may select 1 course.*

(At least 3 different GE designations must be offered here)

Culminating Course/Experience: 3-4 Credit hours

Trail Blazers should select a pool of 1-5 courses.

Courses should be trans-, multi, and/or interdisciplinary and should ideally include applied, experiential learning, or high impact practices.

If currently not GE designated, or not inclusive of the above components, courses can be planned/revised.

At least one current GE approved course must be included at first submission.

Please note plans in cover sheet.

Appendix A – Informational Items

Current General Education Designations and Credit Hour Requirements:

1. English Composition – 6 hours
   - 3 hours of ENGL 1113 Composition I or ENGL 1313 Critical Analysis and Writing I
   - 3 hours of ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1413 Critical Analysis and Writing II or ENGL 3323 Technical Writing
2. US History – 3 hours
   - 3 hours of HIST 1103 Survey of American History or HIST 1483 American History to 1865 (H) or HIST 1493 American History Since 1865 (DH)
3. US Government – 3 hours
   - 3 hours of POLS 1113
4. Analytical and Quantitative Thought (MATH or STAT course with an A designation) – 3 hours (A)
5. Social and Behavioral Sciences – 3 hours (S)
6. Humanities – 6 hours (H) (Courses focused on studio work, design, performance, or individual creative production are not eligible for "H" designations.)
7. Natural Sciences – 6 hours (N, with one Laboratory-Based Inquiry (L) course).
8. Diversity – 1 course (D)
9. International Dimension – 1 course (I)

Additional GE designated courses (A, S, H, or N) to meet the minimum **total of 40 credit hours.**

D and I courses are an OSU requirement and do not count toward 40 hours of general education unless they also have another general education designation, which many do.

Planned Cowboy Compass General Education Designations and Credit Hour Requirements:

OSU's General Education Policy will continue to employ the State Regents' minimum number of hours in each category.

Information about the Cowboy Compass Trail system will be provided to students during orientation and via a module in the First Year Experience course.

1. English Composition – 6 hours
   - 3 hours of ENGL 1113 Composition I or ENGL 1313 Critical Analysis and Writing I
   - 3 hours of ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1413 Critical Analysis and Writing II or ENGL 3323 Technical Writing
2. US History – 3 hours
   - 3 hours of HIST 1103 Survey of American History or HIST 1483 American History to 1865 (H) or HIST 1493 American History Since 1865 (DH)
3. US Government – 3 hours
   - 3 hours of POLS 1113
4. Quantitative Thought & Logical Reasoning (MATH or STAT course with a Q designation) – 3 hours (Q - *formerly A*)

5. Exploring Society & Human Behavior – 3 hours (S)
6. Understanding Humanities – Human Heritage & Cultures – 6 hours (H) (Courses focused on studio work, design, performance, or individual creative production are not eligible for "H" designations.)
7. Reasoning in the Natural Sciences – 6 hours (N, with one Laboratory-Based Inquiry (L) course).
8. Diversity – 3 hours (D). Zero if paired with another designated course.
9. Global Cultural Competency – 3 hours (G – *formerly I*). Zero if paired with another designated course.

- Expression Through Fine Arts & Languages – optional elective choice (F)

Additional GE designated courses (Q, S, H, N or F) to meet the minimum **total of 40 credit hours.**

D, G (*formerly I*), and F designated courses will be allowed as part of the required 40 GE hours provided content meets "liberal arts and sciences" as outlined by OSRHE.

Differences between the current and proposed designations, credit hour requirements, and systems:

- Learning-outcomes-based titles and descriptions to guide course development and review.
- Revised designations based on a learning-outcomes focus.
- Require 3 credit hours each of D and I (G) courses. Paired designated courses encouraged.
- Organize General Education courses thematically via the Cowboy Compass Trails system.
- D and G (*formerly I*) courses will be allowed as part of the required 40 GE hours provided content meets "liberal arts and sciences" as outlined by OSRHE.
- F designated courses provided for students with elective flexibility to meet the minimum total of 40 credit hours provided content meets "liberal arts and sciences" as outlined by OSRHE.

"Farm to Fork" General Education Trail

Overview: Food not only nourishes the human body – it drives economies, shapes cultures and connects communities. In the Farm to Fork General Education Trail, students will trek through the interconnected world of food from seed to society. Students will delve into the science of food, nutrition and agriculture, discover diverse cultural perspectives on food, examine social factors that influence our food choices, and consider the complex economic and environmental challenges facing regional and global food systems.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the science of food, nutrition and agriculture: Gain knowledge about food composition, human nutrition, and the transdisciplinary processes involved in food production, consumption and metabolism.
2. Explore the global food system: Study the complex network of agricultural production, processing, distribution, and consumption that brings food to your plate.
3. Discover diverse cultural perspectives on food: Journey through diverse food traditions, understanding how food shapes and reflects cultural identity, history, and beliefs.
4. Examine social influences on food choices and challenges: Analyze the complex interplay of social pressure, personal preferences, and psychological factors that shape our eating habits.
5. Evaluate economic and environmental challenges in food systems: Critically examine the economic and environmental challenges faced by our food system, exploring sustainable solutions for a healthier future.
6. Develop informed and responsible food choices: Apply your knowledge to make informed decisions about your own food choices, considering health, economics, agricultural sustainability, and ethical implications.

Introductory Course:

- Select one of the following **N-designated courses (1 course; 3 hours)**
    - **HORT 1013: Principles of Horticultural Science (L/N)**
        - Basic physical and physiological processes responsible for plant dormancy, growth, flowering, fruiting, and senescence with respect to the science and art of production, cultivation, utilization, and/or storage of horticultural plants. Current research associated with various horticultural commodity groups.
        - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 5*
    - **NSCI 2013: Principles of Human Nutrition (N)**
        - Functions of the nutrients in human life processes. Nutrient relationship to health as a basis for food choices.
        - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 4, 6*
    - **SOIL 1113: Land, Life and the Environment (N)**
        - Provide information about soils at local, regional, national, and global scales as well as basic soil properties and how they are influenced by human activity. Discussion topics include soil's importance to world food security and human health, agricultural production, environmental quality, and sustainable ecosystems. Students will gain practical knowledge of sustainable soil management in support of the production and ecological regulator functions of the soils.
        - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 2, 5*

Central trail courses (3 courses; 9 hours):

- Select one of the following additional **N-designated courses (1 course; 3 hours)**
    - **ANSI 3543: Principles of Animal Nutrition (N)**
        - Basic principles of animal nutrition including digestion, absorption, and metabolism of the various food nutrients; characteristics of the nutrients; measure of body needs; ration formulation.
        - *Learning Objective(s): 1*
    - **ENTO 2003: Insects and Society (N)**
        - Influence of insects and related arthropods on human society. Current issues involving insects, society and the environment. View of insects in folklore and mythology. Basic biology and behavior of insects and use of insects as model systems for biological studies.
        - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 4, 5*

- **ENTO 2223: Insects in Global Public Health (N)**
  - Biology of diseases carried by arthropods, including their historical and societal impacts focusing on the intersection of arthropod and human biology.
  - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 4*
- **ENTO 2993: Introduction to Entomology (L/N)**
  - Basic biology and classification of insects and closely related animals. Overview of the ecological roles of insects in both natural and managed ecosystems.
  - *Learning Objective(s): 1*
- **ENVR 1113: Elements of Environmental Science (N)**
  - Application of biology, chemistry, ecology, economics, geology, hydrology, mathematics, physics, and other agricultural sciences to environmental issues. Addressing environmental problems from the standpoint of ethics, risk, and scientific and social feasibility. Emphasis on agricultural systems and natural resources.
  - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 2, 5*
- **HORT 1013: Principles of Horticultural Science (L/N)**
  - Basic physical and physiological processes responsible for plant dormancy, growth, flowering, fruiting, and senescence with respect to the science and art of production, cultivation, utilization, and/or storage of horticultural plants. Current research associated with various horticultural commodity groups.
  - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 5*
- **NSCI 2013: Principles of Human Nutrition (N)**
  - Functions of the nutrients in human life processes. Nutrient relationship to health as a basis for food choices.
  - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 4, 6*
- **SOIL 1113: Land, Life and the Environment (N)**
  - Provide information about soils at local, regional, national, and global scales as well as basic soil properties and how they are influenced by human activity. Discussion topics include soil's importance to world food security and human health, agricultural production, environmental quality, and sustainable ecosystems. Students will gain practical knowledge of sustainable soil management in support of the production and ecological regulator functions of the soils.
  - *Learning Objective(s): 1, 2, 5*

- Select one of the following **D or S-designated courses (1 course; 3 hours)**
  - **AGEC 1113: Intro. to Ag. Economics (S)**
    - Economic theory of production, marketing, and consumption of agricultural products and natural resources. The role and structure of agricultural sciences and natural resources within the American economy. Policies to achieve efficiency and welfare goals in agriculture.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 2, 5*
  - **AGEC 2303: Food Marketing to a Diverse Population (D)**
    - Food and beverage demand and preferences of socially and ethnically constructed groups in American Society. Real life issues of marketing to a diverse population, including Native, Asian, African and Hispanic Americans, and low-income populations.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 2, 3, 4*
  - **ECON 1113: The Economics of Social Issues (S)**
    - Issues-oriented approach. Basic economic principles introduced and developed through study of important social issues: for example, inflation, unemployment, poverty, discrimination, crime, population growth and environmental quality. Develops the economist's approach to social problems, and evaluates the contribution of economics to their solution.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 4, 5*
  - **SOC 2123: Social Problems (DS)**
    - Exploration in selected social issues in contemporary American society, such as deviance, poverty, sexism, racism and ageism.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 4*

- **SOIL 3033: Soils and Societies (S)**
  - Influence of the soil in shaping human decisions that affect food supply, cultural practices, economic growth, and establishment of societies. Survey of past and current land uses and land use changes that lead to the demise of societies or advancement of people's lives. Themes include key human utilization of the soil in Oklahoma and in the United States, roles of soil in waste treatment, and advances in assessment and utilization of soil that affect human lives. Soils in art, mythology, pop culture, healthcare, and warfare.
  - *Learning Objective(s): 3, 4, 5*

- Select one of the following **H or I-designated courses (1 course; 3 hours)**
  - **HIST 2513: Plantation to Plate: Sugar, Bananas and Coffee in America (H)**
    - Considers the historical impact that three food commodities – bananas, sugar, and coffee – have had on producing and consuming societies in Latin America and the United States. Analyzes the way food influenced the formation of racial and gender identities and examines different moments when these commodities influenced foreign policy and politics.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 2, 3, 4*
  - **HIST 3803: History of Food (H)**
    - This course offers an interdisciplinary examination of the history and culture of food production and consumption in the US with an emphasis on how US food ways relate to those of other countries. It examines such topics as: food and the formation of social bonds, food and identity, the cultural meaning of food ways, issues of justice and equality in food production and consumption, and how food cultures have developed over time and in relation to other societies.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 2, 3, 4, 5*
  - **HTM 3563: Culture, Food, Beverage, and Travel (I)**
    - Exploration of people, cultures, traditions, and places through food and beverage focused travel. Local and global perspectives for understanding the increasing role that food and drink plays in society and travel. The interrelationships of locale, hospitality, economics, and the environment in creating food and drink destinations.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 2, 3, 4*
  - **PHIL 3703: Animal Ethics (H)**
    - Ethical Issues regarding animals and their moral status. Topics include animal welfare, consciousness, ethical arguments for and against eating meat, debates about the legal rights of the great apes, biomedical research, the ethics of zoos and aquariums, methods of population control, and companion animals.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 4*
  - **REL 3743: Religious Perspectives on Food and Agriculture (H)**
    - Study of the interconnectedness of the history of agriculture and religion as well as the impact that food planting, harvesting and preparation have had on religions and that religions have had on farming practices and food preparation.
    - *Learning Objective(s): 3, 4*

Culminating Course (1 course; 3 hours):

- **NSCI 3543: Food and the Human Environment (S/I)**
  - Impact of the various factors that affect food availability, production, processing, distribution and consumption of food in the world. International cultures and foods. Challenges of and solutions to the world food crisis.
  - *Learning Objective(s): 2, 3, 4, 5, 6*

FARM TO FORK GENERAL EDUCATION TRAIL

INTRODUCTORY COURSE

Select one of the following N-designated courses (1 course; 3 hours):

HORT 1013
NSCI 2013
SOIL 1113

CENTRAL TRAIL COURSES

Select one course from each group (3 courses total; 9 hours total).

N

Select one of the following additional N-designated courses (1 course; 3 hours):

ANSI 3543 (N)
ENTO 2003 (N)
ENTO 2223 (N)
ENTO 2993 (L/N)
ENVR 1113 (N)
HORT 1013 (L/N)
NSCI 2013 (N)
SOIL 1113 (N)

D/S

Select one of the following D or S-designated courses (1 course; 3 hours):

AGEC 1113 (S)
AGEC 2303 (D)
ECON 1113 (S)
SOC 2123 (D/S)
SOIL 3033 (S)

H/I

Select one of the following H or I-designated courses (1 course; 3 hours):

HIST 2513 (H)
HIST 3803 (H)
HTM 3563 (I)
PHIL 3703 (H)
REL 3743 (H)

CULMINATING COURSE

Complete the following I/S-designated course (1 course; 3 hours):

NSCI 3543

Faculty Trail Blazer Spreadsheet = *March 2024 Call*

To be completed only if Trail Idea Proposal is selected.

Trail/Certificate Title:	
Primary Trail contact:	

Introductory Courses. Select a pool of 1-5 courses.

							Past Enrollment numbers			
College	Prefix & Course number	Course Title	Current GE Designations	Course Description	Prerequisites	Thematic Justification/Connection to Learning Outcomes	Spring '24	Fall '23	Spring '23	Fall '22

Culminating Courses. Select a pool of 1-5 courses.

							Past Enrollment numbers			
College	Prefix & Course number	Course Title	Current GE Designations	Course Description	Prerequisites	Connection to Learning Outcomes	Spring '24	Fall '23	Spring '23	Fall '22

Central Trail Pool: Select a Gen Ed designation: _____. List below a pool of 2 or more courses with this designation

							Past Enrollment numbers			
College	Prefix & Course number	Course Title	Current GE Designations	Course Description	Prerequisites	Connection to Learning Outcomes	Spring '24	Fall '23	Spring '23	Fall '22

Central Trail Pool: Select a Gen Ed designation: _____. List below a pool of 2 or more courses with this designation

							Past Enrollment numbers			
College	Prefix & Course number	Course Title	Current GE Designations	Course Description	Prerequisites	Connection to Learning Outcomes	Spring '24	Fall '23	Spring '23	Fall '22

Central Trail Pool: Select a Gen Ed designation: _____. List below a pool of 2 or more courses with this designation

							Past Enrollment numbers			
College	Prefix & Course number	Course Title	Current GE Designations	Course Description	Prerequisites	Connection to Learning Outcomes	Spring '24	Fall '23	Spring '23	Fall '22

(OPTIONAL) Central Trail Pool: Select a Gen Ed designation: _____. List below a pool of 1 or more courses with this designation

Past Enrollment numbers	

College	Prefix & Course number	Course Title	Current GE Designations	Course Description	Prerequisites	Connection to Learning Outcomes	Spring '24	Fall '23	Spring '23	Fall '22

(OPTIONAL) Central Trail Pool: Select a Gen Ed designation: _____. List below a pool of 1 or more courses with this designation

							Past Enrollment numbers			
College	Prefix & Course number	Course Title	Current GE Designations	Course Description	Prerequisites	Connection to Learning Outcomes	Spring '24	Fall '23	Spring '23	Fall '22