

To: Provost Michael Middleton
From: Chris Reali (GECCo, Chair) on behalf of GECCo
Subject: Interim Report on RCNJ GE Program Revision
Date: December 17, 2025

In fall 2024, the Provost and Faculty Assembly President charged GECCo with reviewing and revising the RCNJ General Education program. The Faculty Assembly voted to approve this charge on December 11, 2024. GECCo's guiding principles include having a General Education program that:

- Reflects the RCNJ Mission.
- Incorporates competencies that align with and strengthen RCNJ's liberal arts mission. This provides students necessary knowledge and skills and opens the GE curriculum to more programs.
- It is viewed through the lens of students including four-year as well as transfers from county colleges and other institutions.
- Is inspirational, important and manageable to students, faculty and staff.
- Meets Middle States Commission on Higher Education's (MSCHE) accreditation requirements.

Proposed Changes Highlights

- Simplifies the GE program by reducing total overall courses to eight (32-33 credits), including two "stand alone courses" (FYS, CRWT). Students will now have more space in their schedule for minors and double-majors.
- Expands the GE program to include more disciplines through competency and attribute-based Student Learning Outcomes rather than disciplinary aligned categories.
- Streamlines the GE program by removing the "two out of three" school-based requirement of the current program that has caused confusion for students, and simplifies advisement for students, staff, and faculty.
- Provides flexibility by allowing students to take GE courses in almost any order that fits their scheduling needs, with the exception of FYS in their first semester and WI courses with CRWT 102 as a prerequisite.
- Simplifies instruction and assessment by reducing the number of student learning outcomes
 - Reduce the total number of outcomes by about 50%
 - Makes GE program more equitable for students and faculty
- Courses will occur at 100- or 200-level with no prerequisites outside of developmental courses and CRWT 102 for WI courses
 - All courses in the Creative category will be WI
 - 300- and 400-level language courses will still be eligible for inclusion in the GE program

Summary of the Process

GECCo meets on a monthly basis. Starting in spring 2024, the committee, in consultation with the Provost's office, began to consider revising the GE program. During the summer 2024 committee retreat, GECCo members revised the manual, refining numerous SLOs, and began earnest discussions about what a revised GE program might look like. (Report submitted to the Provost's Office.) In fall 2024, the Provost, FA President, Ken McMurdy, and GECCo chair, Chris Reali, met to develop a rough timeline for a GE revision. The Provost and FA President then drafted a charge where GECCo would serve as the body tasked with steering the GE revision process. The FA overwhelmingly approved the charge in December 2024. GECCo distributed a survey to faculty in February 2025 to gather feedback about the current GE program. GECCo hosted a Town Hall meeting in spring 2025 to share the survey results with faculty.

GECCo representatives met with key stakeholders on campus during spring 2025 including the Student Government Association (SGA), Center for Student Success leaders and advisors, and the Registrar's Office. GECCo representatives will continue to meet and get feedback from these campus partners. The GECCo chair made frequent presentations during spring 2025 at FA to update faculty about the revision process.

GECCo dedicated the summer 2025 retreat to discussing the GE revision process. The Provost and representatives from the Liberal Arts Task Force also attended. Chris Reali and Mike Unger chaired two sub-groups to explore and develop at least two GE program models to present to GECCo in fall 2025. The two working groups were tasked with aligning their recommendations with the Comprehensive Academic Plan (CAP) and LACES reports. (Report submitted to the Provost's Office.)

The GECCo chair presented at the first FA meeting in fall 2025 to update the faculty on the revision process and presented a timeline for the program revision.

In October 2025, GECCo endorsed the creation of a GE-revision subgroup that met weekly in fall 2025 to develop a GE framework. In November 2025 GECCo approved forwarding the GE framework to the Faculty Assembly at the December 10, 2025 meeting.

Timeline of Upcoming Events

- 12/10/2025 - Initial framework presented to FA
- December 2025 - Feedback form made available for faculty, staff and students
- January & February 2026 - GECCo weekday “office hours” (both in person and virtual) to gather feedback. Times and dates TBA.
- 1/28 & 2/18 - Unit Council feedback
- 2/25 - GE Faculty Forum after FA
- 3/11 - Faculty Development Day session
- January-March 2026, Gather administration, staff, and student feedback
- 4/8 - Final proposal to FA for vote
- Fall 2026-Spring 2027 - Faculty revise and submit courses for review
- Fall 2027 - Full program implementation

GECCo Implementation & Program Management Recommendations

- GECCo is discussing potential implementation and program maintenance recommendations in light of the Comprehensive Academic Plan. This includes committee structure and membership in light of new schools and the newly created Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Honors.
- Revisiting and updating relevant transfer agreements.
- Streamlining the General Education assessment process so it is more meaningful, efficient, and useful as well as improving communication of results.
- Streamlining the course approval process, in conjunction with ARC, WAC, GECCo, Provost's Office and Registrar for GE program implementation targeted for Fall 2027.

Detailed GE Revision Timeline

- 1) Spring 2024
 - a) Discussions about revising RCNJ GE program began in GECCo meetings
 - b) Provost Middleton attended April meeting to ask if GECCo was the right group
- 2) Summer 2024
 - a) GECCo retreat in May; report submitted to Provost and Deans
 - i) Revise GECCo manual
- 3) Fall 2024
 - a) Chris Reali, Ken McMurdy met with Provost to discuss a timeline and strategize
 - b) Draft charge language written by Ken McMurdy & Michael Middleton
 - c) GECCo charged shared with FA
 - d) FA approved charge in December 2024
 - e) GECCo continues to review courses
 - f) Preliminary discussions about GE revision
 - g) Faculty survey about GE developed
- 4) Spring 2025
 - a) Survey distributed via FA in February
 - i) 48 responses
 - b) Chris Reali speaks with SGA to gather student leader's thoughts
 - c) Chris Reali & Mike Unger meet with:
 - i) Academic Advisers
 - ii) Student Success Area Leaders
 - iii) Registrar
 - d) GE Town Hall during April FA meeting to present preliminary findings
- 5) Summer 2025
 - a) GE retreat; report shared with Provost and Dean's
 - b) Two sub groups formed, one led by Chris Reali and the other by Mike Unger
 - i) Members: Vanessa Arriola, Desi Budeva, Peter Campbell, Christina Connor, Jeff Elsworth, Tae Kwak, Em Leskinen, Ken McMurdy, Carrie Miller, Joyce Shim, Jeremy Teigen, Leah Warner
 - ii) Tasked with developing at least two GE program models
 - iii) Each group meet both in person and virtually
- 6) Fall 2025

- a) GECCo presentation at Sept. FA meeting updating what has happened since April
- b) Sarah Carberry appointed GECCo Chair, *pro tem* because Chris Reali takes medical leave
- c) October 15, 2025 GECCo meeting:
 - i) Adhoc subcommittee formed, “GECCo Small Group,” and endorsed by the entire committee to do the bulk of research and design to bring back to GECCo further discussion.
 - (1) Members: Sarah Carberry, Peter Campbell, Christina Conner, Carrie Miller, Mike Unger, Leah Warner
 - ii) Sarah presented a draft GE plan using literacies and attributes based on the feedback from internal GECCo survey.
 - (1) Literacies are the categories (ex. CRWT)
 - (2) Attributes are skills (ex. Technology)
 - (3) Plan also removes connections between majors and schools
 - iii) GECCo endorsed the following logistical guidelines for the Small Group to follow:
 - (1) GE program not to exceed 32 credits
 - (2) GE should not be expected to “do it all”
 - (3) No Prereqs, except CRWT is needed for WI courses. Further discussion needed. Languages may need exceptions (testing in).
 - (4) Will not depend on the major
- d) GECCo Small Group
 - i) Meets on a weekly basis to develop draft plan
 - ii) Chris returns as Chair on October 20, 2025, and joins the Small Group
 - iii) Draft plan developed
 - (1) Shared with GECCo and Provost’s office on Nov. 14
- e) GECCo meeting, November 19, 2025
 - i) GE draft plan presented to entire committee
 - ii) GECCo endorses advancing the GE Program draft to FA for further discussion.
 - iii) GECCo members given the opportunity to comment on GE Program draft before sharing with FA and staff
- f) December 1, 2025
 - i) GECCo Small Group meets to incorporate feedback from GECCo into the draft GE plan.
 - ii) GECCo Small Group planned dates for the Spring 2026 feedback opportunities.
- g) December 10, 2025
 - i) GECCo presented draft plan to FA and outlines feedback gathering process
- h) Mid-December
 - i) Feedback form distributed to faculty
 - ii) Interim report shared with Provost’s office