



now **GE**tsmart

GE Innovation Institute (May 11-15, 2015)

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Problems with Current GE Model

- ❑ Outdated Cafeteria Model
- ❑ Students dislike GE
- ❑ Doesn't promote integrative thinking; knowledge is compartmentalized
- ❑ Other institutions in the state are well on their way to GE redesign
- ❑ Not meeting all GE Outcomes, which are state mandated
<https://www.snow.edu/academics/ge/index.html>
- ❑ Doesn't address scholarship on GE design principles
- ❑ Little use of high impact teaching practices

Charge

- ❑ Define what it means to be generally educated
- ❑ Examine GE design philosophies
- ❑ Evaluate GE models currently in use at institutions across the nation
- ❑ Design three Snow GE models
- ❑ Examine assessment theory
- ❑ Design assessment strategies for GE models
- ❑ Develop a single GE model and assessment plan to present to the faculty

What should a generally educated person be able to do/feel?

- Communicate: oral, written, visual
- Team work
- Understand/appreciate multiple perspectives
- Problem solve—find satisfaction in working hard
- Think ethically, creatively, critically, analytically
- Generate (change) opinions
- Old—New (use old information to look at new problems)
- Feel passion about lifelong learning
- Be comfortable with the world

Parameters (things we cannot change)

- ❑ Core: E1, E2, AI, QL, 5 knowledge areas
- ❑ 31-36 GE credits
- ❑ Transfer—both in and out
- ❑ 2-year role
- ❑ Under-prepared students (3 year reality)
- ❑ Two campuses
- ❑ Open enrollment
- ❑ Location

Things We Do Well Right Now (things we do not want to change)

- Small Class Size
- High Touch Learning Environment
- Full-time Faculty Teaching General Education Courses
- Successful Major Preparation
- Quality/Rigor
- High Success Rate (grades, transfer, completion)
- Retention (unless we can improve)
- Solid Reputation with USHE institutions
- Champion the Unprepared

Things We Could Improve with New GE Design

- ❑ Enhance student learning
- ❑ Career Preparedness
- ❑ Placement
- ❑ Incorporation of more high impact practices
- ❑ Attitude that GE is nothing more than a repeat of high school
- ❑ Eliminate checkoff list mentality
- ❑ Outcomes-based approach campus wide
- ❑ Greater agency and intentionality
- ❑ Connections/Integration
- ❑ Innovation
- ❑ Engagement of both students and faculty
- ❑ Redefine student expectations (raise the bar)
- ❑ More concern for “learning”
- ❑ Assessment
- ❑ De-silo campus community
- ❑ Rethink workload
- ❑ Learning outside the classroom
- ❑ Flexibility

GE Models

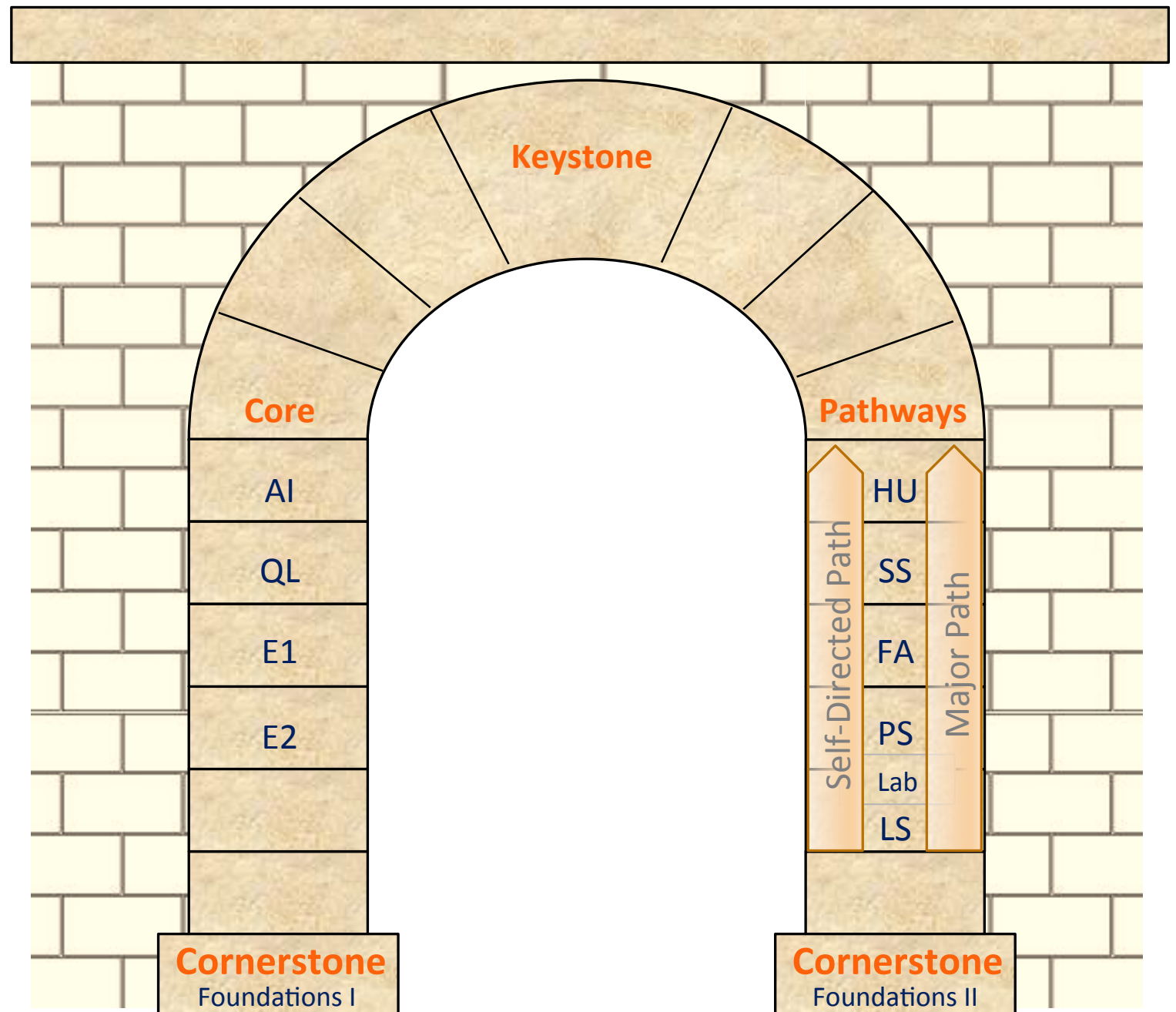
- 1) Cafeteria/Chinese Menu Model
- 2) Hybrid Models
 - Themes/Pathways
 - First Year Experience
 - Cohorts/Learning Communities
 - Corner and Capstone Experiences
 - Retain elements of Cafeteria Model but move toward Integrative Model
 - Innovative packaging
- 3) Fully Integrative Model

SUU Good, Better, Best Model

- ❑ Good: Cafeteria Model
- ❑ Better: Paired Courses/Pathways
- ❑ Best: Complete Package (fully integrated)
 - Theme: Freedom
 - 8 faculty members/50 students
 - 16 credits per semester
 - No discrete credit
 - No students with credit; no students not fully prepared
 - Advertised as faster, cheaper approach to GE
 - Perpetuates get it out of the way thinking???
 - Can't transfer in or out

We Can Do Better

- ❑ **Keystone:** Integrated GE or major courses (paired connections)
- ❑ **Core:** State requirements for all students
- ❑ **Pathways:** Knowledge areas integrated for a **Self-Directed Path** or a **Major Path**
- ❑ **Cornerstone:** Freshman Seminar – All students (Foundations I & II)



Cornerstone: Foundations I & II

Outcomes 2, 3, 6, 7

- ❑ Integration – complex problem solving
- ❑ Standard reading list (from all divisions)
- ❑ Wicked question/Big question
- ❑ Involve student life
- ❑ Writing intensive
- ❑ Reading intensive
- ❑ Critical, analytical, creative thinking
- ❑ Entrepreneurship
- ❑ Oral communication
- ❑ Pathway planning
- ❑ Human Relations
- ❑ Teamwork

6 credits

Core

AI
1, 2, 6

QL
1, 2, 4, 6

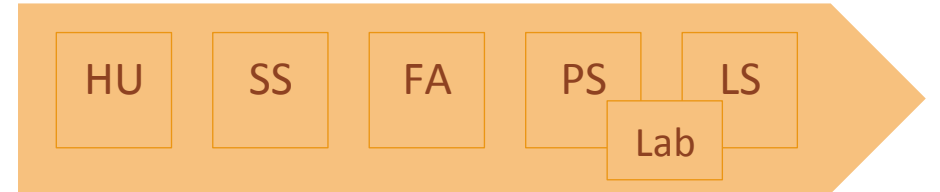
E1 / E2
1, 2, 6

12- 13 credits

Pathways* (with Keystone)

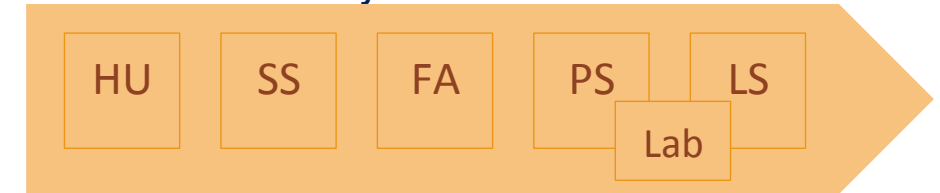
1, 2, 5, 6

Self-Directed Path



Keystone: 6 credits of paired courses (flexibility)

Major Path**



* Big question addressed in knowledge areas when appropriate

** 3-7 credit substitution allowed within discipline

AS: 34-36 Credits

AA: 34-35 Credits (substitute 4-5 credits of 1020 or higher in FL for 3 credits in pathway)

AAS: Foundation I & II count as human relations and communication

16 credits

Outcomes

- ❑ Introduced in the foundation courses
- ❑ Supported through the core and pathways

High Impact Practices

- ❑ First year experience
- ❑ Common intellectual experience
- ❑ Writing intensive
- ❑ Teamwork (collaborative assignment)
- ❑ Small class size

Flexibility

- ❑ For all students (AS, AA, AAS)
- ❑ IVC
- ❑ Substitutions built in
- ❑ Major friendly

Co-Curricular Collaboration

- ❑ 50% of student life activities will support either a GE outcome or tie to the Big Question
- ❑ Icons tied to GE outcomes will be used for activity or event promotion.

Assessment

Knowledge Areas

- Signature assignment evaluated using rubric for knowledge area outcomes
- Required reflection assignment

Foundation Courses

- Pre/Post assignment or signature assignment
- Required reflection assignment

Reflective Assessment

- ❑ How does this course tie to the “big question?”
- ❑ How does this course tie to other disciplines/knowledge areas?

Selling Points

- ❑ Promotes interdisciplinary communication
- ❑ Helps students take control of their GE
- ❑ Creates a paradigm shift for students (intentional learning)
- ❑ Prepares students for pathways
- ❑ Promotes integrative thinking
- ❑ Minimizes disruption of GE model

Potential Objections/Concerns

- ❑ Snow will once again be nothing more than a GE School.
- ❑ We cannot afford this.
- ❑ Who will teach all these foundation courses?
- ❑ Won't this burden my majors?
- ❑ If departments lose GE slots, what will happen to employees in those departments?
- ❑ Everyone needs a piece of the GE pie to survive.
- ❑ If it's not broken, why fix it?
- ❑ How will this impact the way I teach my classes?

