

University Studies Program

General Education, done better.

Quest II: Planning Your Future in College, Work, and Life

(Revision to Quest II passed by Faculty Governance March 28, 2017)

Students who start at UW Oshkosh with fewer than fifteen credits are required to take Quest II courses in their second semester. These courses are capped at fifty students, focus on Ethical Reasoning, carry one of three Signature Questions, and are co-requisite with Comm 111 or WBIS 188.

The revision will extend the First Year Experience (FYE) of Quest I into Quest II, making this experience truly a “First Year Experience.” While the FYE of Quest I is largely *present-oriented*, the FYE of Quest II will be *future-oriented*, helping students to plan their paths at UW Oshkosh and beyond, with emphases on undergraduate research, academic and student organization opportunities, career planning, and alumni interaction.

SPECIFIC REVISION

Each Quest II course will incorporate future-oriented FYE elements by

- 1) requiring students to participate in one of the bolded activities in each column in the table below, and
- 2) incorporating at least one other activity from the 2nd & 3rd columns in the table below.

This revision also designates the third week of every spring semester as **Showcase Week**, during which academic departments and programs, as well as other student-focused offices would be invited to hold one three-hour open house on whichever day they choose. These open houses will showcase their majors, minors, emphases, etcetera. Quest II students will be required to visit at least three of these showcases. Prospective and current students at any stage will be invited to visit these as well.

Finally, the Signature Question minimum requirement will be reduced to 25%, as it is in Quest I.

Introduction to Research and/or Creative Activity	Your Future in College	Your Future in Work & Life
Partnership with Office of Student Research & Creative Activity 1. Student attendance at Celebration of Scholarship & Creative Activity 2. Class visit by advanced student researcher or artist/ undergraduate research staff/ faculty or lecturer/ alumni/ grad student(s) / grad staff to talk about research/creative opportunities 3. Appropriate research/ creative assignment in class 4. Focus on research/creative ethics in your discipline	Partnerships with Academic Depts. & Programs, Student Leadership & Involvement Center (SLIC), International Education, Division of Academic Support of Inclusive Excellence 1. Student visit to at least 3 Open Houses during Showcase Week (or Dept. at another time) 2. Student visit to: - Taste of U.W.Oshkosh - SLIC info meeting - Study-Intern Abroad Fair - Volunteer Fair 3. Class visits from student leaders / SLIC / Study-Intern Abroad alumni 4. Frame course around relevant campus issues & offices Online major/ minor/ grad program exploration	Partnerships with Career Services & the Alumni Association Board 1. Class visits of volunteer alumni (any major), to discuss how UWO prepared them for their careers/lives 2. Student interaction with Career Services in 1-2 short class visits. Example topics: - Resumé /Dream Resumé assignment - StrengthsQuest (\$10 fee per student) - Elevator Pitch/ Reflection on how this course/ research helps in careers - LinkedIn account assignment - Career Fair / Creating Connections assignment - Other?

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Important Points in Support of the Quest II Revision

This revision is aimed largely at the goal of retaining first-year students.

- Help struggling students find the resources they need to thrive.
- Inform high-achieving students of the research, career, and involvement opportunities that UW Oshkosh has to offer. (More than 20% of students leave UW Oshkosh after their first year. Institutional research suggests that a significant number of these are high-achieving students.)

This revision asks faculty and lecturers to make small changes, not big ones, to Quest II courses.

- There is no change in course content, except that the Signature Question content may be reduced to 25% if necessary to incorporate the FYE (just as is currently the case in Quest I).
- Meetings with Alumni and the Career Center use up as little as one and a half class meetings.
- The remaining activities require students to do something outside of class.
- The suggested activities do not require any new content or new expertise on the part of faculty and lecturers, only that we let other campus offices work with our students.

This revision fits well with the UW Oshkosh Strategic Plan.

- All Quest II FYE activities support Priority A, “Enhance Student Success,” with its goals to “increase the retention, progression, and graduation rates” and to “prepare students for today’s careers, future employment and high quality of life.”
- The early introduction to undergraduate research aligns with strategic priority B, “Promote Academic Excellence,” and its goal of creating “a research-enhanced comprehensive university.”
- The Alumni interaction, which is a community engagement experience, supports strategic priority C, “Expand Community Engagement and Economic Development.”
- Increasing awareness of opportunities at UW Oshkosh is particularly valuable to first generation students, which supports Strategic Priority D, “Build an Inclusive and Supportive Institutional Environment,” and its goal to “increase diversity and inclusion across every level of the university.”

This revision bolsters the University Studies Program’s goals of delivering liberal education.

- UW Oshkosh is a prominent participant in Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP), an initiative of the American Association of Colleges & Universities. The LEAP Initiative calls for exposing connections between ***College, Work, and Life***.
- One of the principles of the LEAP initiative is to “Foster Civic, Intercultural, and Ethical Learning” by emphasizing “personal and social responsibility, in every field of study.”
 - Ethical Reasoning has been a focus of Quest II since 2013 because it is the only UW Oshkosh Essential Learning Outcome under “Personal and Social Responsibility” that is not a signature question.
 - This revision opens up a new way to incorporate ***ethical reasoning: in the context of research ethics or creative work ethics***. However faculty and lecturers choose to incorporate ethical reasoning, Quest II will continue to include discipline-specific ethical reasoning as well as a signature question.