

INSIDE GENERAL ED

It's official: The College has approved a new gen ed program. But what does that mean?

□ What you need to know about gen ed reform.

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Editor in Chief

The College's new general education program *Making Connections, Making a Difference* has finally passed; however, it will not be activated until the fall of 2003 when freshmen part of the Class of 2007 arrive on campus.

In the meantime, committees part of the General Education Review Task Force will be meeting to design and revise courses slated to form the new program.

Dr. Betty Webb, chair of the task force that has been evaluating the College's current general education curriculum for over a year, said that a goal of the new program is to help students connect ideas "earlier and more purposefully" than they do now.

"We really want students to leave [Meredith] with usable skills," she said.

Associate Dean of

Academic Affairs Alyson Colwell-Waber who has worked closely with Webb on the new program said she and the rest of the task force "wanted a curriculum that is really about what the mission of Meredith is about--active, responsible citizens."

She hopes that students will be able to "see connections" and draw on those connections from taking different courses.

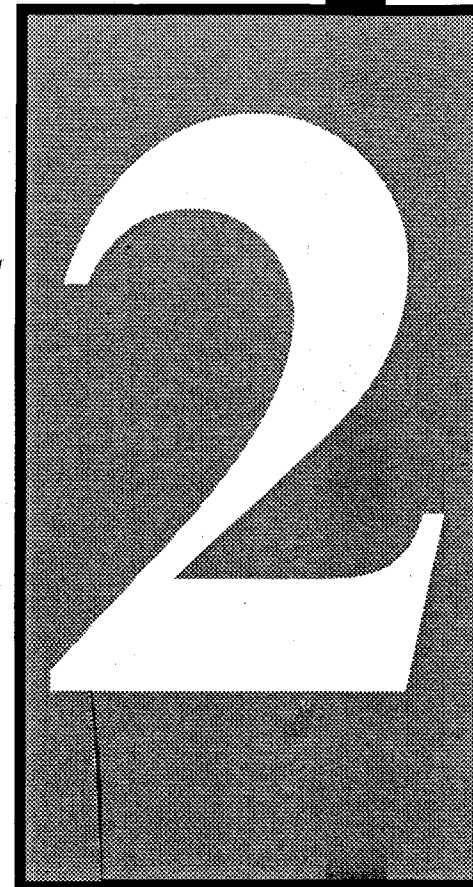
The program is designed around three core courses that emphasize connecting ideas from multiple disciplines, expanding global awareness and engaging in civic activities: The Context of Culture, Cultural Connections and Global Perspectives.

The Context of Culture class is a four-credit course a student will take during her first-year at Meredith. In this initial class, she will explore how she relates to her own society.

During her sophomore or junior year, she will take the Cultural Connections class through which she will expand her study from her

individual society to societies around the world. She will explore ways in which diverse cultures develop community through studying other cultures and completing a research project or studying abroad.

Finally, in the Global Perspectives class, the student will use the knowledge she has learned in the two prior courses to analyze how she



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Cultural Co

FOCAL
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3-credit
Taken during so

Builds on *Context*

Uses countries other than
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Students will study cult
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complete a rese

THE FOUNDATION: *The Context of Culture*

FOCAL POINT: Personal/Local

4-credit course

Taken during freshman year

Explores how individuals of broad cultural backgrounds work together in society while those individuals preserve their uniqueness.

Uses the United States as a focal point for study.

Students will study disciplines such as music, theater, dance, literature, analytical writing and social and psychological theory.

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