

# Memo

To: Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

From: University Curriculum Committee for General Education

Date: November 6, 2025

RE: Pathways Concept 7

The UCCGE discussed CUSP 2025-26A, Resolution Affirming Administration Action Under Exigent Circumstances, at their meeting on Oct 1, 2025. By general consensus, the committee opposed this resolution. Concept 7 was created and approved by university faculty through shared governance, and according to our stated principles of academic freedom and free speech, this includes the ability for “scholars to conduct research, teach, speak, and publish within an area of expertise without interference or penalty.” The suspension of concept 7 has not proceeded through the proper governance steps.

Understanding that the suspension has been implemented without the ability of the UCCGE to properly vote, UCCGE, as subcommittee of CUSP, has been asked to inform this stage of governance. The UCCGE has discussed all possible options for next steps regarding Pathways concept 7. We present these options below for CUSP’s consideration, noting that UCCGE finds option #1 to be the most appropriate.

## Options for Consideration:

1. **Substantial Revision of Existing Concept:** This would include a careful rewriting of the current Pathways 7 concept (new title, new description, new learning outcomes) to fit the current structure (3 credits, can double-count with another concept), but meet the compliance standards while not deviating too far from the current concept. This could involve focusing on topics like belonging, accessibility, civic learning and engagement, multiple perspectives, etc. The revision would be part of the full program review occurring during the 2026-27 academic year.

Pros, Cons, Consequences, Implications:

- a. This might not impact current course offerings and enrollments too greatly.
- b. May be challenging to rewrite and still meet compliance standards, both Pathways compliance standards and the CUSP Resolution.

2. **Reinstatement:** Following the university-wide review, the Pathways 7 concept could be reinstated as written.

Pros, Cons, Consequences, Implications:

- a. Would not impact enrollments or course offerings. Suspension would be lifted for incoming students.
  - b. Could align with the Principles of Community
  - c. Runs the risk of not meeting compliance standards. Could put a target on President Sands and/or institution for perceived non-compliance.
3. **Replacement with a New Focus:** This would include replacing the current Pathways 7 with a focus that is a great deviation from the original content, while fitting the current structure (3 credits, can double-count with other core concepts). This would include altering the title, description, and learning outcomes.

Pros, Cons, Consequences, Implications:

- a. This option would keep the gen ed scope and scale the same, but would offer the chance to introduce an emerging current student learning need. Some suggestions from the university community have included financial literacy, AI-literacy, modern/foreign languages, and there are likely many other topics that could be considered.
  - b. This would require broad participation to nail down what the replacement focus should be.
  - c. Once focus is identified, building the new concept would most resemble the process used to create the original Pathways concepts and program, leveraging cross-disciplinary expertise and shared governance.
  - d. Depending on the direction, this option would likely redirect current enrollment trends and course offerings for the Pathways 7 concept.
  - e. Depending on the direction, this option would also likely require substantial time commitments from faculty and departments to revise courses.
4. **Suspension to Deletion:** The Pathways 7 requirement currently suspended could be deleted completely for future students.

Pros, Cons, Consequences, Implications:

- a. The total gen ed credits would go from 45 to 42, meaning every degree would have to recalculate degree core, requirements, etc. and update every checksheet.
  - b. It is highly unlikely we'd ever get a Pathways 7 option back once that work is complete.
  - c. We'd miss the chance for a meaningful update to the Pathways program with the loss of this Concept 7 double-counting overlay option.
5. **Long-Term/Delayed Review:** We live with the suspension in the near-term and conduct a more thorough multi-year review effort.

Pros, Cons, Consequences, Implications:

- a. Students will continue to receive a green check in DARS and only complete 42 gen ed credits. The remaining 3 credits would continue to be a free elective.
- b. Students are missing out on an opportunity for a more encompassing gen ed curriculum in the short-term.
- c. The time to re-visit reinstatement of Concept 7 could end up being many years into the future.
- d. Leaves those teaching Concept 7 learning outcomes in limbo for an extended period of time.
- e. A longer timeline may not meet the desires of all constituents in the governance process.

### Points to Consider:

Regardless of chosen path forward, here are a few key points to consider:

1. Whatever path is chosen, the result cannot delay student progress to degree. Therefore, the result should only impact incoming students.
2. All options will require prompt and ongoing collaboration and communication to manage the implementation and rollout.
3. All options (except possibly reinstatement) may require allocation of new or shifting resources: faculty/staff, course offerings, staff support, etc.
4. If options 2 or 3 are chosen, at what point should the suspension be lifted? Can it be lifted for all incoming students while the new/revised concept 7 is being created?
5. What do Concept 7 faculty do in the meantime?
6. What do we do with current Concept 7 courses in the meantime?
7. Need to find ways to gather student input on current and potential future.

### Proposed Timeline:

This timeline places all of Pathways review together in an intentional process that aligns with prior gen ed reform efforts.

AY 2025-26: Take through full shared governance a plan to review Pathways Concept 7 along with full Pathways review (see accompanying draft resolution).

AY 2026-27: Comprehensive review of the full Pathways program, including concept 7, as part of the existing Pathways assessment cycle.

AY 2027-28: Implementation of new/revised, refreshed Pathways curriculum.

AY 2028-29: Students enter under the refreshed Pathways program.