GENERAL EDUCATION

ENROLLMENT
2008 to 2012
General education enrollment has dropped 17% from 2008-2012, compared to just an 11% drop in overall undergraduate enrollment.

STUDENT SENTIMENT
Only 8% of 729 students surveyed in Fall of 2013 expressed positive feedback about their GE experience. The most common words they used to describe their classes were waste, boring, and pointless.

PROGRAM DELIVERY
Only 1 in 2 of the 400 faculty (47%) surveyed in Fall of 2013 have ever taught a GE course.

GE program expectations have been directly measured and met for 1 of 4 goals (25%): developing habits of writing, speaking, and reasoning. 38% of all GE courses identify this goal as an objective. The other 3 goals have only been measured indirectly.

OTHER PROGRAMS
Loyola: 36 hours
Illinois State: 42 hours
Univ. of Illinois Chicago: 28 hours
U of I Urbana-Champaign: 41 hours

The PLUS Task Force, charged with improving NIU’s General Education experience, has received feedback from 1300+ students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

CURRICULAR FLEXIBILITY
NIU offers a total of 144 GE courses. The median number of GE courses at 25 benchmarked peer institutions is 239.

Almost 1 in 4 (23%) of all lower-division courses have GE designation. Yet only 13 upper-division courses (2%) are so designated.

86% of all GE course sections are taught by only 1 of 5 colleges with undergraduate programs.

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13 courses, 39-41 hours

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