



ENDURING QUESTIONS

WHAT IS AN ENDURING QUESTION, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER TO MAVEd?

An **enduring question** is a **timeless, open-ended, and thought-provoking inquiry** that serves as the intellectual anchor of a general education course. At UNO, every course proposed for general education certification must identify and integrate one or more enduring questions relevant to its disciplinary content area.

These questions typically:

- Drive **inquiry** within a discipline
- Encourage **critical thinking** and the exploration of **multiple perspectives**
- Do not have simple or final answers
- Invite students to **engage deeply**, reflect personally, and apply ideas beyond the classroom

Examples include:

- How do we balance personal freedom with the common good?
- What does it mean to live a good life?
- How does globalization influence culture and identity?

CORE EXPECTATIONS



Centers Courses on Big Ideas

Enduring questions provide a **unifying thread** for the course. Rather than organizing around facts or skills that students may see as isolated or disconnected, the course is framed around a **central idea that matters**, making learning more meaningful and memorable.



Encourages Engagement

These questions naturally promote **discussion, debate, and critical analysis**, inviting students to:

- Examine evidence from multiple sources
- Consider diverse viewpoints

Reflect on their own beliefs and assumptions



Promotes Integrative Learning

By connecting course content to broad, complex issues, enduring questions help students see the **relationships between disciplines**, concepts, and real-world challenges — a cornerstone of integrative learning.



Enhances Relevance and Purpose

Enduring questions help students understand why the course matters. When students grapple with important and relatable questions, they are more likely to see the value of general education as part of their personal, civic, and professional development.

The enduring question transforms each general education course into a space for **deep intellectual exploration** and **lifelong inquiry**, ensuring that students engage not just with content but with the fundamental questions that shape human understanding.

Additional Resources at [MavEd.unomaha.edu](https://www.maved.unomaha.edu)