# Research on Management Mode of General Education Courses in Private Colleges and Universities

# Peng Li<sup>1</sup>, Meiyan Zhang<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>City College, Southwest University of Science and Technology, Mianyang Sichuan 621000, China <sup>2</sup>City College, Southwest University of Science and Technology, School of Art and Design, Mianyang, 621000, Sichuan, China

**Keywords:** Private colleges and universities; General education course; Management mode; Optimization

**Abstract:** Under the background that all colleges and universities are actively carrying out general education, it still faces many issues, such as limited courses, limited class hours, students' insufficient attention, insufficient educational function, etc. In particular, general education plays an important role in the process of transformation from private colleges and universities to applied technology universities, and carries the function of cultivating "comprehensive people". The reasonable structure of general education core curriculum can better highlight the characteristics of applied private colleges and universities, and cultivate more applied talents with both political integrity and ability. Based on the concept and function of general education, this work analyzes the issues existing in the development of general education courses in private colleges and universities, and puts forward corresponding optimization programs and suggestions, hoping to offer corresponding reference for teaching development in private colleges and universities.

## 1. Introduction

The topic of general education is always associated with research-oriented comprehensive universities. Generally speaking, general education is a corrective measure put forward by research universities for the increasingly narrow professional education and vocational education. Some people think that this kind of elite education, which spends more educational resources to teach impractical knowledge, is not suitable for the popularization of higher education in China. Private colleges and universities are faced with many issues, such as institutional environment, return on investment, fund-raising, etc. However, the development and implementation of general education in private colleges and universities are not the focus of current attention, and it has been neglected [1]. With regard to the quality improvement and long-term development of private education, general education is an unavoidable topic. It is necessary to emphasize the curriculum and management of general education in teaching, and form a teaching mode that keeps pace with the times, thus fundamentally improving the education quality of private colleges and universities.

## 2. The Concept and Function of General Education

"General education" is an education that establishes the subjectivity of human beings and interacts with the subjectivity of the object scene. It is also an education that completes the "awakening of human beings". General education can make people stand firm and self-control, instead of succumbing to the domination of "objects" outside human beings. It is a kind of education that is beneficial to the establishment of perfect personality, promotes people's self liberation, and emphasizes extensive and non professional basic knowledge, skills and attitudes. The aim is to cultivate real people who actively participate in social life and have a sense of social responsibility and all-round development [2].

General education is a non professional education that college students should accept, and it is an important part of higher education. As social citizens, students need to have a common understanding of the state and society basic principles, such as basic social norms, social ethics,

social morality, etc. General education gives people more moral and direction. Its implementation can offer students with various cultural knowledge, broaden their knowledge horizon, views and minds, improve their quality, and construct a reasonable knowledge structure and ability structure. The implementation of general education can avoid career orientation and instrumentalization. Compared with professional education, general education emphasizes professional and generous knowledge base. This enables the specialty to absorb broader development nutrients while being profound, thus organically integrating humanities, society and natural science. General education focuses on more extensive and in-depth education on the basic knowledge of humanities, society and nature, the dissemination of human cultural heritage and the educational role of students' personality, as well as the all-round development of human beings [3]. More people in colleges and universities are required to have employment flexibility and adaptability. General education can achieve the above goals, which is particularly important for practical teaching in private colleges and universities.

# 3. The Selection of Management Scheme for General Education Courses in Private Colleges and Universities

#### 3.1. The selection of course content

In general education courses, efforts should be made on the word "general" and results should be made in the word "knowledge". Through classroom teaching, establishing general education studio, holding a series of lectures, carrying out cultural activities, etc., the general education teaching can communicate with various colleges, majors, basic teaching classes, training platforms and industrial companies. "Knowledge" is rich in students' literacy in literature, history, art, etc., so that students have ambition in learning, logical thinking, innovation and passion, and solutions to problems. By building a platform for general education, it is necessary to cultivate students' innovative spirit, apply the connotation and spirit of general education course to creation and practice, and finally get exercise and improvement in creation and practice.

Based on the extensive knowledge, the general education curriculum will be further refined and targeted according to the specialty characteristics of each college. According to the curriculum setting of Jilin animation general education institute, it is worth studying in creating a system combining "big general education" and "small general education". From "big general knowledge" to "small general education", the curriculum is increasingly precise and detailed for the training plan of applied talents. "Big general knowledge" is supported by courses such as computer application foundation, college students' mental health education, military theory, etc. Reference can be made to "the national standard for undergraduate specialty teaching quality in general institutions of higher learning". At the same time, online courses are introduced for supplement. MOOCS covers the origin and historical evolution of civilization, human thought and self cognition, literary cultivation and art appreciation, scientific discovery and technological innovation, economic activities and social management, Chinese classics and cultural heritage, general ability, innovation and entrepreneurship, and growth foundation. Students can choose their favorite courses according to their own interests and professional needs. The "small general education" part is more accurate for the training mode of school applied talents [4].

## 3.2. The selection of course format

There are generally two ways to carry out general education courses in private colleges and universities. The first is to set up a general education steering committee or research center or general education college to plan the general education of the whole school. The premise is that there must be direct participation of school level leaders, and a preliminary consensus must be reached with all professional departments in order to promote it. Second, 12-14 credits should be taken out of the course credits to open public elective courses. The former has a big action in the organizational system, fewer users and many difficulties in the implementation, and the latter is easy to implement from the system and has more users.

The curriculum design of general education should break through the barriers between general education courses and professional courses in the conventional sense, and integrate general education into professional courses such as basic courses, compulsory courses and elective courses. The curriculum system is the sacred territory of professional colleges and departments. Colleges and departments spare no effort to protect the specialty, and the current system is also conducive to this protection. The most difficult part of general education planning is to obtain the support of professional departments, construct the general education curriculum system, and integrate the general education and professional curriculum resources. The overall design of general education curriculum is a process that reaches a consensus on the goal and method of cultivating talents. This system design can not be separated from professional education, teaching management, the main body of the school teachers and students. It requires the participation and discussion of education managers at all levels, teachers and students in all disciplines.

# 3.3. The development of curriculum teaching

Private colleges and universities should carry out general education in practice through certain ways, and create a strong cultural atmosphere. Consequently, students can feel the charm of general education in diversified teaching activities, and their subjective initiative can be stimulated.

# 3.3.1. Planning for general education lectures

The general education lectures held by private colleges and universities should pay attention to the scale and long-term nature, make medium and long-term planning, and have unremitting determination. Only in this way can they have a certain impact on students. In the beginning, multi-party mobilization may be needed, and long-term persistence can develop to a certain number of audiences and some outside school audiences, forming scale effect. As time passes, this persistence fosters the habit of listening to lectures, discussing problems with professors and reading books.

# 3.3.2. Planning for library and reading activities

Library is the guardian of university spirit and the heart of university. However, the utilization rate of private colleges and universities library is low, and thus it is difficult to play its due role. On the one hand, the construction of private colleges and universities library is insufficient. On the other hand, the library service for students is not enough. The private colleges and universities library should catch up with others and make breakthroughs in the quantity and quality of their collections. They should also play the role of book organizers and guides. By holding various activities, such as knowledge training, reading salons, reading lectures, essay competition, etc., the library will be an open reading paradise to attract students' attention.

## 3.3.3. Integration of community activities and general education activities

The literature society, Chinese culture society, calligraphy society, etc., should become the actual propagandists and service providers of general education activities. The members not only exercise their ability in the specific affairs of publicity and service, but also obtain spiritual identity, which makes the associations have greater cohesion [5]. The departments that hold the activities should actively strive for the support of student associations and expand their influence through these students.

The types of activities in general education are mostly similar. However, the idea and planning of activities can be different, which should be adapted to local conditions. It is necessary to infiltrate the general education idea into various activities of higher education, and echo and complement each other with the promotion of the general education idea, the discussion of the curriculum system and the improvement of teaching methods. Consequently, private colleges and universities can cultivate high-quality talents with characteristics for social development.

## 4. Conclusion

Private colleges and universities are new products of China's education system reform. In the face of many famous schools and public colleges, it is more important to make the education of private colleges and universities have their own characteristics, improve the teaching quality of private colleges and universities, and make the students of private colleges and universities more competitive. The implementation of general education has freed from the old road of private colleges and universities following the public colleges and created a new direction for private higher education. In the process of teaching, private colleges and universities need to grasp the choice of educational content, the setting of curriculum system and the expansion of activity mode. Based on specialization, diversification and individuation, it is necessary to comprehensively improve the literary quality and philosophical implication of general education and enhance the interest of teaching. Students can actively participate in the process of general education learning and imperceptibly improve their personal quality, which can truly achieve the goal of cultivating high-quality applied talents in private colleges and universities.

# Acknowledgements

2020 Sichuan Provincial People's Association Scientific Research Project FundReferences 2020 fund for Vocational Education Research in Mianyang

## References

- [1] Jones, W. A. (2010). General education assessment at private historically black colleges and universities: An exploratory study. JGE: Journal of General Education, The, 59(1), 1-16.
- [2] Ratcliff, J. L., Johnson, D. K., La Nasa, S. M., & Gaff, J. G. (2001). The Status of General Education in the Year 2000: Summary of a National Survey. Association of American Colleges & Universities, 1818 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 (1-10 copies: members, \$8; nonmembers, \$10; additional discounts for larger quantities).
- [3] Cheng, S. Y., Wang, C. J., Shen, A. C. T., & Chang, S. C. (2020). How to safely reopen colleges and universities during COVID-19: experiences from Taiwan. Annals of Internal Medicine.
- [4] Garcia, G. A. (2019). Becoming Hispanic-serving institutions: Opportunities for colleges and universities. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- [5] Lawrence, M., & Mckendry, S. (2019). Supporting transgender and non-binary students and staff in further and higher education: Practical advice for Colleges and Universities. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.