Status of Kevin Rorty's General Education Requirements at JMU

Cluster I: Skills for the 21st Century. 9-12 credits needed

GENG 101: Prerequisite
You probably do not have to take it because of your three semesters of HC Literature (but I don't think you get credit for those here--you just don't have to take the course...)

Package C: Language and Communication
GCOM 121 / GENG 102
Not sure whether you have to take these or not.

You do not get credit for GER 101 because you took 4 years of high school german; you do get credit for 4 semester hours of GER199 and the retreat.

We have to find out how much credit you get for the Goethe Institute courses. You may have enough credits for the Cluster I requirement.

It is probable you'll have to take GCOM121 or GENG 102C.

Cluster II: Arts and Humanities. 9 credit hours.

There are two possibilities here.

Package A: American Identities
Depending upon what the course content was, you may have enough literature credits (12 qh or 8 sh in your first year of college) -- plus 8 qh or 5 sh of history, if some of that was American history) -- a total of 13 semester hours.

Package D: Reality and Imagination.
You have 4 or 5 semester hours of theater arts. If you took 2 more courses--1 philosophy class and 1 GHUM Great Works you'd satisfy this package.

Cluster III: The Natural World. 10 credit hours.

This is gonna be tough. You need 3 or 4 courses. Only 1 of your Oregon courses--Geology 101--meets a requirement (they counted it as GSCI 102A, worth 3 credit hours) unless CIS 120 can be counted under "Integrated Science and Technology." I think instead it counts toward Package D of Cluster I, under critical skills and historical inquiry. (Both counted toward your science requirement at Oregon.) But even if both count, you only have 4 semester hours -- and they are split across two Packages (B and D).

Package B and Package E look most interesting (and least math-y) to me--but you are much better at math than I am. I suggest you look at the catalogue and see if Package B has some prerequisites for computer stuff in it.

Cluster IV: Social and Cultural Process. 6 credits needed.
You have taken 5 semester hours of history, plus 2 each of anthropology and sociology.

If you count 2 semester hours of history toward Package A in Cluster II, you still have 2 sc hours of history, plus 2 sc hours of anthropology. Ask your advisor if you can count your SOC 399, Violence and the Media, 2 sc hours, plus HDEV 407, What Cops See, toward your Cluster 4 requirements.

Cluster V: Individuals in the Human Community. 6 Credits needed.
You have no credits in this cluster; you need two courses.

Your 2 quarters of first year german did not transfer into JMU because they will not count first year german for someone who had so much german in high school. The only other course I have found on your transcript that they did not take into consideration seems to have been the 2 qc human development course on what cops see, fall 1995. I guess they did not have a comparable program; but your advisor may allow that to be added into SOC 399 to make it a 3 sc course for cluster 4. You lost 10 quarter credits (=2 semester courses) by transferring to JMU (but may have got that many from the goethe institute *:-]).

Summary: It looks to me as if you still need the following courses for your general education requirement, to be taken over the next 6 semesters:
- possibly a composition requirement for cluster I;
- 3 or 4 science courses (cluster III)
- 2 psych courses (cluster V)
and maybe some general humanities courses.

You have to take 120 credits (=40 courses) to graduate. 1/3 of them will be in general education; and you have taken about half of those (or will have, when you get the descriptions of the courses from the honors college.) Another third will be in your major. The rest are whatever seems interesting (including, I fondly hope, a larding of computer classes).

You have taken the equivalent of one lit course every quarter for two years--roughly 4 semesters, 12 semester-credits, of english. You can figure you are gonna need another 10 lit courses (or combination literature/theater courses) to major. We'll know better when we see the JMU catalogue.

I was very concerned that your transcript evaluation places you firmly in the beginning of your sophomore year. I felt a little better when I looked at the Oregon transcript; according to their calculations, you are just a first-quarter sophomore there, too, and would need 22 quarter credits to be a junior. So though you may wonder if you are losing ground by transferring, I don't think you are really losing very much (and I think taking a year off was a great idea in any case).

We should think about summer school seriously. You may prefer to take some of the general ed requirements over the summer from harrisonburg and get them out of the way (especially since you have
not sent me an essay yet).