



7. General Education Requirements

Overview

This section outlines the standards for courses proposed to meet General Education Requirements for:

- Napa Valley College General Education
- CSU General Education
- IGETC

I. Napa Valley College General Education Proposal

If a course is proposed for Napa Valley College General Education (Title 5, Section 55806. (2) it must satisfy the criteria as describe below. While courses might satisfy more than one general education requirement, it may not be counted more than once for these purposes. A course may be used to satisfy both a general education requirement and a major requirement. Students may use the same course to meet a general education requirement for the Associate Degree and to partially satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University, if such a course is eligible under the provisions of section 40405 of this title.

A. Natural Sciences

Courses in natural science are those which examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the General Education Requirement in natural sciences, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific methods, and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

B. Humanities

Courses in the humanities are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirement in humanities, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people through the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and help the student develop aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. Such courses could include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign language, literature, philosophy, and religion.

C. Social and Behavioral Sciences

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall be designed to develop an awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It shall be designed to stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology and related disciplines.

D. Language and Rationality

Courses in language that cover the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression and critical evaluation of communication in whatever symbol system the student uses.

English Composition:

Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement shall be designed to include both expository and argumentative writing.

Mathematics:

Courses fulfilling the mathematics requirement include Mathematics and statistics. For the AS Degree, these are mathematics course equivalent to Elementary Algebra and above. For the AA Degree, these include course equivalent to Intermediate Algebra and above.

Communication and Analytical Thinking:

Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, logic, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines.

E. Multicultural/ Gender Studies

The purpose of the Multicultural/Gender Studies Course Section E graduation requirement for the Associate of Arts and Associate of Sciences degrees is to introduce students to cross-cultural and male/female perspectives and experiences of historically under-represented groups within American Society. The intent of the Section E requirement is to broaden students' understanding of cultural/gender influences on contemporary American society, and to provide inclusive curricula that compare perspectives of various cultural groups represented by our students.

To fulfill this requirement, courses will provide introductory/survey level information comparing multiple American cultural groups, rather than focusing on a single population. The following criteria are used by the curriculum committee to determine eligibility for each course proposed to meet this requirement:

- The comparison and contrast of cultural and male/female contributions and perspectives are explicit, not implicit in the course of study.
- The course of study includes at least three historically under-represented groups within American Society (e.g., African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian American, GLBT)
- The course of study is applicable to contemporary American cultural life. Historical perspectives may be used to provide background and context and/or to reflect contemporary social conditions.
- A significant portion of the course of study is devoted to the perspectives and contributions of women.

F. Other Associate Degree Graduation Requirement

American Institutions and California Government:

One Course in United States History and one course in American institutions and California government are required for Associate of Arts degrees but not Associate of Science degrees. A

course proposed to meet American institutions and California government requirement must satisfy the requirements CSU executive order #167 if the course is intended to meet the California State University graduation requirement as well as the Associate Degree requirement.

Health Education and Physical Education Course:

Students are required to take three units of Health Education or Physical Education to satisfy both the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees.

II. California State University (CSU) General Education

If a course is proposed for areas of CSU GE (Executive Order No. 595) (Title 5, Sections 40405.1), it must satisfy the following criteria.

Area A. Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking

Instruction approved for fulfillment of the requirement in communication is to be designed to emphasize the content of communication as well as the form and should provide an understanding of the psychological basis and the social significance of communication, including how communication operates in various situations. Applicable course(s) should view communication as the process of human symbolic interaction focusing on the communicative process from the rhetorical perspective: reasoning and advocacy, organization, accuracy; the discovery, critical evaluation and reporting of information; reading and listening effectively as well as speaking and writing. This must include active participation and practice in written communication and oral communication.

Instruction in critical thinking is designed to achieve an understanding of the relationship of language to logic, which should lead to the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas, to reason inductively and deductively, and to reach factual or judgmental conclusions based on sound inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief. The minimal competence to be expected at the successful conclusion of instruction in critical thinking should be the demonstration of skills in elementary inductive and deductive processes, including an understanding of the formal and informal fallacies of language and thought, and the ability to distinguish matters of fact from issues of judgment or opinion.

____A1. Oral Communication

____A2. Written Communication

____A3. Critical Thinking

Area B. Physical Universe and its Life Forms

Instruction approved for the fulfillment of this requirement is intended to impact knowledge of the facts and principles that form the foundations of living and non-living systems. Such studies should promote understanding and appreciation of the methodologies of science as investigative tools, the limitations of scientific endeavors; namely, what is the evidence and how was it derived? In addition, particular attention should be given to the influence which the acquisition of scientific knowledge has had on the development of the world's civilizations, not only as expressed in the past but also in present times. The nature and extent of laboratory experience is to be determined by each campus through its established

curricular procedures. In specifying inquiry into mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning and their application, the intention is not to imply merely basic computational skills, but to encourage as well the understanding of basic mathematical concepts.

____B1. Physical Science

____B2. Life Science

____B3. Laboratory Activity

____B4. Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning

Area C. Arts, Literature, Philosophy and Foreign Languages

Instruction approved for the fulfillment of this requirement should cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility and sensitivity. It is meant in part to encourage students to respond subjectively as well as objectively to experience and to develop a sense of the integrity of emotional and intellectual response. Students should be motivated to cultivate and refine their affective as well as cognitive and physical faculties through studying great works of the human imagination, which could include active participation in individual esthetic, creative experience. Equally important is the intellectual examination of the subjective response, thereby increasing awareness and appreciation in the traditional humanistic disciplines such as art, dance, drama, literature and music. The requirement should result in the student's better understanding of the interrelationship between the creative arts, the humanities and self. Studies in these areas should include exposure to both Western cultures and non-Western cultures.

Foreign language courses may be included in this requirement because of their implications for cultures both in their linguistic structures and in their use in literature; but foreign language courses which are approved to meet a portion of this requirement are to contain a cultural component and not be solely skills acquisition courses. Campus provisions for fulfillment of this requirement must include a reasonable distribution among the categories specified as opposed to the completion of the entire number of units required in one category.

____C1. Arts

____C2. Humanities

Area D. Social, Political, and Economic Institutions and Behavior, Historical Background

Instruction approved for the fulfillment of this requirement should reflect the fact that human social, political, and economic institutions and behavior are inextricably interwoven. Problems and issues in

these areas should be examined in their contemporary as well as historical setting, including both Western and non-Western contexts. Campus provisions for fulfillment of this requirement must include a reasonable distribution among the categories specified as opposed to completion of the entire number of units required in one category.

___D1. Anthropology and archeology

___D2. Economics

___D3. Ethnic Studies

___D4. Gender Studies

___D5. Geography

___D6. History

___D7. Interdisciplinary Social or Behavioral Science

___D8. Political Science, Government, and Legal Institutions

___D9. Psychology

___D10. Sociology and Criminology

Area E. Lifelong Understanding and Self Development

Instruction approved for fulfillment of this requirement should facilitate understanding of the human being as an integrated physiological, social, and psychological organism. Courses developed to meet this requirement are intended to include selective consideration of such matters as human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, health, stress, key relationships of humankind to the social and physical environment, and implications of death and dying. Physical activity could be included, provided that it is an integral part of the study described herein.

III. Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)

If a course is proposed for IGETC (Title 5, Section 40405.2), it must satisfy the following criteria:

- Requirements prior to submission for IGETC
- Course must be listed on the UC Transfer Course Agreement (TCA) list and
- Course must be transferable for CSU baccalaureate elective credit/baccalaureate list
- Course complies with Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum requirements in Title 5, Section 40405.2.

Area 1. English Communication

English as a Second Language courses cannot be used to fulfill the English composition requirement. Writing courses designed to meet the needs of a particular major, e.g., Writing for Accountants, cannot be used to meet the composition requirement.

The English Communication subject area includes a requirement for a combined course in critical thinking-English composition. The IGETC curriculum states that the course must have a prerequisite of a first-semester reading and composition course. The course must provide “as a major component, instruction in the composition of substantial essays and require students to write a sequence of such essays. Written work shall be evaluated for both composition and critical thinking.

_____ Group A: English Communication

_____ Group B: Critical Thinking-English Composition

_____ Group C: Oral Communication

Area 2. Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning

Courses approved to fulfill this requirement must focus on quantitative analysis and the ability to use and criticize quantitative arguments. Symbolic Logic, Computer Programming, and survey math/quantitative reasoning requirement.

_____ Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

Arts - The IGETC requires that courses meeting this requirement have as their major emphasis the integration of history, theory, aesthetics, and criticism. Courses which focus on technique or performance were not approved to meet this requirement (e.g., Beginning Drawing, Beginning Painting, and Readers Theatre and Oral Interpretation courses focusing primarily on performance.)

Humanities - Acceptable humanities courses are those that encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic and cultural importance. The faculty of the two segments determined that courses such as English composition, Logic, Speech, Creative Writing, Oral Interpretation, Readers Theatre, Spanish for Spanish Speakers, and all other elementary foreign language courses were skills or performance courses that do not meet the specifications for IGETC. Advanced foreign language courses were approved if they were taught with emphasis on historical, literary, or cultural aspects. The segments will also accept Logic courses as long as the focus is not solely on technique but includes the role of logic in humanities disciplines.

_____Arts

_____Humanities

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Only courses which are taught from the perspective of a social or behavioral science were approved. Consequently, courses such as Physical Geography and Statistics did not meet the IGETC specifications for this area and were not approved. Community colleges may resubmit these courses in a more appropriate area. ...Courses with a practical, personal, or applied focus were not approved. Administration of Justice courses may be approved on an individual basis if they focus on core concepts of the social and behavioral sciences.

_____Anthropology and Archaeology

_____Economics

_____Ethnic Studies

_____Gender Studies

_____Geography

_____History

_____Interdisciplinary, Social & Behavioral Sciences

_____ Political Science, Government & Legal Institutions

_____ Psychology

_____ Sociology & Criminology

Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences

Biological Sciences - Acceptable courses must focus on teaching the basic concepts of biological sciences. Human Nutrition, Horticulture, Forestry, Health, and Human Environment courses were determined to have a narrow or applied focus and therefore unacceptable for this area. Courses which emphasize the major concepts of the discipline, including biochemical and physiological principles, will be considered.

Physical Sciences - Course which do not focus on the core concepts of a physical science discipline, such as Energy and the Way we Live, are not acceptable.

_____ Physical Science with Lab or Physical Science Lab only (non-sequence)

_____ Physical Science Lecture only (non-sequence)

_____ Physical Science Lecture course

_____ Physical Science with lab or Biological Science Lab only (non-sequence)

_____ Biological Science Lecture only (non-sequence)

_____ Biological Science Lecture course

_____ Biological Science Lab course

_____ First Science course is a Special sequence

_____ Second Science course in a Special Sequence

