

NVC GE descriptions

A. Natural Science

Courses in the natural sciences are those that examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the general education requirement in natural sciences, a course will be designed to help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method. These courses will also impart to the student an understanding of the relationships between science and the world around them. This category will include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics and other scientific disciplines.

B. Social and Behavioral

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

C: Humanities:

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

D: Language and Rationality

Courses in language and rationality are those that develop for the student the principles and applications of language, whether it be written, spoken or symbolic. These courses will explore language in all its various stages; from logical thought to a clear and precise expression of that thought, including critical evaluation of the process. Three components of this area will be required.

- (i) **English Composition:** Courses fulfilling the English composition requirement will focus on written language. To satisfy the general education requirement in English composition, a course will be designed to include substantial instruction and practice in both expository and argumentative writing.
- (ii) **Communication and Analytical thinking:** Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement will focus on spoken or symbolic language. To satisfy the general education requirement in communication and analytical thinking, a course will be designed to help the student achieve an understanding of the relationship between language and logic, leading to the ability to communicate ideas, analyze and solve problems, and identify the assumptions upon which particular conclusions depend. This category will include introductory or integrative courses in oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines.
- (iii) **Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning:** Courses fulfilling the mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning requirement will focus on symbolic language. To satisfy the general education requirement in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning, a course will be designed to help a student successfully process information requiring quantitative analysis, calculation, and the ability to use and criticize quantitative arguments. This category will include courses in mathematics, specifically those which meet or exceed the math competency requirement, including statistics.

E. Multicultural/Gender Studies

Courses in multicultural/gender studies introduce students to multiple cultural and gendered analyses of contemporary social life. To satisfy the general education requirement in multicultural/gender studies, a course shall be designed for the analysis of the contributions and perspectives of underrepresented cultures. Such analysis is to be explicit, not implicit, in the course of study. Courses shall include at least three of the following groups: African American, Chicano/Latino, Asian American, Native American, those defined exclusively by sex, sexual/affection groups, disabilities and those defined by age. A significant portion of the course of study shall offer gendered analysis, with special attention paid to the perspectives and contributions of women. Historical perspectives may be used to provide background and context and/or to reflect contemporary social conditions. This category will include introductory courses in a variety of disciplines that reflect multiple cultural and gendered analyses of contemporary social life.