



University Policy Statement

UPS 411.202

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM: UNIT REQUIREMENTS, ACADEMIC STANDARDS, AND EXCEPTIONS

I. California State University (CSU) Requirements

- a. General Education requirements are specified in the California Code of Regulation, Title 5, Article 40405 and the current California State University policy. Students must complete:
 - i. The CSU lower-division General Education Requirements plus nine semester units (or 12 quarter units) of upper division general education courses, consisting of a minimum of three semester units (or four quarter units) each in Areas 3, 4, and either 2 or 5 completed at a CSU; or
 - ii. The California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC), as certified by a California Community College plus nine semester units (or 12 quarter units) of upper division general education courses consisting of a minimum of three semester units (or four quarter units) each in Areas 3, 4, and either 2 or 5; or
 - iii. The University of California Campus Lower-Division general education requirements (Title 5, Section 40405.3) as certified by that campus plus nine semester units (or 12 quarter units) of upper division general education courses consisting of a minimum of three semester units (or four quarter units) each in Area 3, 4, and either 2 or 5.
- b. In fulfilling options i, ii, or iii, the nine semester units (or 12 quarter units) of upper division general education shall be taken within the California State University. The upper division general education courses are designed to be taken after upper-division status (completion of 60 semester units, or the quarter-unit equivalent) is attained. At a minimum students shall be required to have satisfactorily completed lower division general education courses in English Composition (1A), critical thinking (1B), oral communication (1C), and mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning (2A) before enrolling in upper division GE courses.
- c. Subsequent to a change of major, the student shall not be subject to different or additional general education requirements solely to address CSU GE requirements already satisfied.
- d. Following completion of CSU GE lower-division and upper-division requirements, a student shall not be required to satisfy additional GE requirements.

- e. Unless otherwise specified in Section II below, upper-division courses may be certified for CSU lower-division requirements so long as adequate numbers of lower-division course options are available to students.

II. CSU Fullerton Unit and Distribution Requirements (43 semester units)

The General Education Program at California State University, Fullerton, is divided into six major Areas and one Overlay: 1. English Communication, 2. Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning, 3. Arts and Humanities, 4. Social and Behavioral Sciences, 5. Physical and Biological Sciences, 6. Ethnic Studies, and Overlay Z, Cultural Diversity.

a. Area 1: English Communication (9 Units)

Students shall complete one course of three units in each of the following subareas: English Composition (1A), Critical Thinking (1B), and Oral Communication (1C). These shall be lower-division courses.

b. Area 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (3 or 6 Units)

Students shall complete one course of three units in Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (2A). Additionally, students shall complete one course of three units at the upper-division level in either Implications and Explorations in Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (2U) or Implications and Explorations in Physical and Biological Sciences (5U).

Courses in 2A shall be lower-division courses. Courses in 2U shall be upper-division courses.

c. Area 3: Arts and Humanities (9 Units)

Students shall complete one course of at least three units in each of the following subareas: Introduction to the Arts (3A), Introduction to the Humanities (3B), and with three semester units taken at the upper-division level Explorations in the Arts or Humanities (3U).

Courses in 3A and 3B shall be lower-division courses. Courses in 3U shall be upper-division courses.

d. Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences (9 Units)

Students shall complete one course of at least three units in each of the following subareas: Introduction to the Social Sciences (4A), American History, Institutions, and Values (4B), and with three semester units taken at the upper-division level Explorations in Social Sciences (4U). Students shall complete courses from at least two different disciplines in Area 4.

Courses in 4A and 4B shall be lower-division courses. Courses in 4U shall be upper-division courses.

e. Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences (7 or 10 Units)

Students shall complete one course of three units in each of the following categories: Physical Science (5A) and Biological Science (5B). Additionally, students shall complete one course of three units at the upper-division level in either Implications and Explorations in Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (2U) or Implications and Explorations in Physical and Biological Sciences (5U).

Students shall also complete a laboratory experience (1 unit, 5C) associated with 5A or 5B. Laboratory experience may be offered within a lecture plus laboratory course of 4 units or a stand-alone laboratory course of 1 unit. Higher-unit GE courses may not be required, but GE courses bearing higher units may be allowed to satisfy GE Area or subarea requirements.

Courses in 5A through 5C shall be lower-division courses. Courses in 5U shall be upper-division courses.

- f. Area 6: Ethnic Studies (3 units): Students shall complete one course of at least three units in this area.

Courses in Area 6 may be upper-division courses so long as adequate numbers of lower-division course options in Area 6 are available to students.

- g. Overlay Z: Cultural Diversity (3 units): Some courses in the GE Program also satisfy the Overlay Z Cultural Diversity requirement. These courses are marked with an asterisk (*) in appropriate university publications or websites. A course satisfying Overlay Z shall be taken at CSU Fullerton.

III. CSUF Academic Standards for General Education

- a. Courses in area 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2A shall be completed with a grade of C- or higher in order to meet the requirement. These courses shall include a statement that “A grade of “C-” (1.7) or higher is required to meet this General Education requirement. A grade of “D+” (1.3) or below will not satisfy this General Education Requirement.”
- b. Courses in areas 2U, 3-6, and Overlay Z shall be completed with a grade of D (1.0) or higher in order to satisfy the General Education Requirement. If a General Education course is required by a major the standard for fulfilling the major requirement may be higher than that required to fulfill the General Education requirement.

IV. Exceptions to General Education Requirements

- a. Individual Students
 - i. In the case of an individual student, the campus may grant a partial waiver of one or more of the particular requirements of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 40405.1, to avoid demonstrable hardship.
 - ii. Students who have completed a baccalaureate or higher degree from an institutionally accredited college or university are exempt from additional general education requirements.
 - iii. Students who have completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by the appropriate academic authority are exempt from additional general education requirements.

b. Degree Programs

i. Additional Requirements

1. CSUF is authorized to permit up to six units taken to meet the United States History, Constitution, and American Ideals Requirement (Title 5, Section 40404) to satisfy GE requirements.
2. Major courses and campus-wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirement.
3. The total number of general education units required shall be 43 units.
4. The development of new baccalaureate programs shall include consideration of how the degree requirements will incorporate the required GE units, the major program requirements, and other graduation requirements. Justifications must be provided to the Office of the Chancellor for any program extending the baccalaureate credit requirement beyond 120 units (Title 5, Section 40508).

ii. Exceptions to GE Requirements

1. In the case of high-unit degree programs, the Chancellor may grant substitutions to one or more GE requirements. To request a substitution to one or more requirements, the department or program must submit a proposal to the office of Undergraduate Studies and General Education. The proposal shall indicate how the department/program curriculum will continue to meet the General Education Learning Goals and Outcomes despite the substitution and contain a full academic justification. Prior to submission, the proposal must have a majority vote of approval from the department/program and received positive written recommendations from the department/program curriculum committee, the department/program chair, the college curriculum committee, and the college dean. Once received by the office of Undergraduate Studies and General Education the proposal will be forwarded to the General Education Committee and Academic Senate. The General Education Committee will make a recommendation to the Academic Senate. The recommendation of the General Education Committee must be approved by a majority of the voting members of the committee. The Academic Senate shall recommend proposals to the Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs and the President. If the recommendation is to request a substitution, the proposal and recommendations shall be submitted to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

Source: General Education Committee

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