



University Policy Statement

UPS 411.202

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

- I. California State University (CSU) Requirements
 - a. General education breadth requirements are specified in the California Code of Regulation, Title 5, Article 40405 and the current California State University Executive Order. Students must complete:
 - i. The CSU General Education Breadth Requirements including lower-division certification by a California Community College or a CSU 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 B, C, and D; or
 - ii. The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC), 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 Area B, C, and D; 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 B, C, and D within the CSU.
 - 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 oral communication (A.1), written communication (A.2), critical thinking (A.3), and mathematics/quantitative reasoning (B.4) 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 requirements already satisfied.
 - d. Subsequent to completion of CSU lower-division and upper-division requirements, the student shall not be required to satisfy additional exclusively general education breadth requirements.
- II. CSU Fullerton Unit and Distribution Requirements (48 semester units minimum)

The General Education Program at California State University, Fullerton, is divided into five major Areas and one Overlay: A. Core Competencies, B. Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning, C. Arts and Humanities, D. Social Sciences, E. Lifelong Learning and Self-Development, and Overlay Z, Cultural Diversity.

a. Area A: Core Competencies (9 Units)

Students shall complete one course of three units in each of the following subareas: Oral Communication (A.1), Written Communication (A.2), and Critical Thinking (A.3). These shall be lower-division courses.

b. Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning (12 Units)

Students shall complete one course of three units in each of the following categories: Physical Science (B.1), Life Science (B.2), Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B.4) and **with three semester units taken at the upper-division level** Implications and Explorations in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B.5).

Students shall also complete a laboratory experience (0-1 units, B.3) associated with B.1 or B.2. Laboratory experience may be offered within a 3-unit lecture course; 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 B.1 through B.4 shall be lower-division courses. Courses in B.5 shall be upper-division courses.

c. Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)

Students shall complete one course of at least three units in each of the following subareas: Introduction to the Arts (C.1), Introduction to the Humanities (C.2), Origins of World Civilizations (C.3), and **with three semester units taken at the upper-division level** Explorations in the Arts or Humanities (C.4).

Courses in C.1 through C.3 shall be lower-division courses. Courses in C.4 shall be upper-division courses.

- d. Area D: Social Sciences (12 Units)
Students shall complete one course of at least three units in each of the following subareas: Introduction to the Social Sciences (D.1), American History, Institutions, and Values (D.2), American Government (D.3), and **with three semester units taken at the upper-division level** Explorations in Social Sciences (D.4). Students shall complete courses from at least two different disciplines in Area D.

Courses in D.1 through D.3 shall be lower-division courses. Courses in D.4 shall be upper-division courses.
- e. Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (three units): Students shall complete one course of at least three units in this area.
- f. Overlay Z: Cultural Diversity (three 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.

III. CSUF Academic Standards for General Education

- a. Courses in area A.1, A.2, A.3, and B.4 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 B.1, B.2, B.3, B.5, C.1-C.4, D.1-D.4, and E, and Overlay Z shall be completed with a grade of D 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 institution accredited by a regional accrediting association 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. Adjusting Unit Distributions

1. CSUF is authorized to adjust the number of units assigned to any of the required distribution areas (A-E).
2. The total number of general education units required shall not be fewer than 48 units or greater than 49 units.
3. Departments wishing to alter the number of units assigned to the required distribution areas shall submit a proposal to the Office of Academic Programs. The proposal shall indicate how the department/program curriculum will continue to meet the General Education Learning Goals and Outcomes. Prior to submission to the Office of Academic Programs, 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 Academic Programs 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 President.

ii. Exceptions to Breadth Requirements

1. In the case of high-unit degree programs (those programs requiring more than 120 units), the Chancellor can grant exceptions to one or more requirements. To request an exception from one or more requirements beyond adjusting the unit requirements, the department or program must submit a proposal to the Office of Academic Programs. The proposal shall indicate how the department/program curriculum will continue to meet the General Education Learning Goals and Outcomes despite the exception and contain a full academic justification. Prior to submission to the Office of Academic Programs, 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 Academic Programs 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 an exception, 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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