

Creating a Solid Backbone for Your Degrees



Making sense of General Education

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Overview



- Definitions and Regulations
- Accreditation Standards
- Student Learning Outcomes
- Competing definitions? Local requirements versus other GE patterns.
- GE as a means to survive the budget?
- GE Forever?

Title 5 Regulations



- §55063(b) defines the minimum requirements for the general education component of the associate degree
- “Students receiving an associate degree shall complete a minimum of 18 semester or 27 quarter units of general education coursework which includes a minimum of three semester or four quarter units in each of the areas specified “
 - Natural Sciences
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Humanities
 - Language and Rationality
 - ✦ English Composition
 - ✦ Communication and Analytical Thinking
- Ethnic Studies **MUST** be offered in at least one of the areas listed above.

Title 5 Regulations



- “While a course 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 or area of emphasis requirement. Whether it may be counted again for a different degree requirement is a matter for each college to determine. 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 course is accepted by that system to satisfy a general education requirement.”

So what does it mean?



- Students **MUST** complete at least 18 semester (or 27 quarter) units in courses that are designated to meet those areas listed.
 - Your college can choose to require more than the minimum number of units and can add additional areas.
- Colleges can choose whether or not they want to allow the same course to satisfy a major requirement and a GE one.
- Colleges **MAY NOT** allow students to use the same course to satisfy two GE requirements.
 - Local Graduation Requirements not included in this restriction

Title 5 Pattern Minimum



- Natural Sciences (3 units)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 units)
- Humanities (3 units)
- Language and Rationality (6 units)
 - ✦ English Composition
 - ✦ Communication and Analytical Thinking

Sample Local Pattern



- A. Natural Sciences (3 Units)
- B. Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 Units)
 - B1. American Institutions
 - B2. Social Science Elective
- C. Humanities (3 Units)
- D. Cultural Breadth (3 Units)
- E. Language and Rationality (6 Units)
 - E1. English Composition
 - E2. Communication and Analytical Thinking
- F. Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development (3 Units)

What happened to 18 units?



- While Title 5 requires that your college have at least 18 units of GE, it doesn't say that you can't require more.
- Many colleges have local GE patterns which have areas and proficiencies that total more than 18 units. That is perfectly acceptable as long as the minimum requirements in §55063 are satisfied.
 - Does it make sense to require significantly more than 18 units in your local pattern?

Accreditation Standards and SLO



- Make sure content of general education course also adheres to Accreditation Standard II.A. 3a-c
 - Philosophy of General Education
 - Broader Perspective
- Student Learning Outcomes
 - What should students completing coursework in a particular category learn?
 - How is this measured?

Standard II.A. 3 a-c



The institution requires of all academic and vocational degree programs a component of general education based on a carefully considered philosophy that is clearly stated in its catalog. The institution, relying on the expertise of its faculty, determines the appropriateness of each course for inclusion in the general education curriculum by examining the stated learning outcomes for the course.

General education has comprehensive learning outcomes for the students who complete it, including the following:

- a) a. An understanding of the basic content and methodology of the major areas of knowledge: areas include the humanities and fine arts, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.
- b) b. A capability to be a productive individual and life-long learner: skills include oral and written communication, information competency, computer literacy, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis/logical thinking, and the ability to acquire knowledge through a variety of means.
- c) c. A recognition of what it means to be an ethical human being and effective citizen: qualities include an appreciation of ethical principles; civility and interpersonal skills ; respect for cultural diversity; historical and aesthetic sensitivity; and the willingness to assume civic, political, and social responsibilities locally, nationally, and globally.

CSU GE / IGETC ??



- Most students planning to transfer to a UC or CSU campus will complete either CSU GE Breadth or IGETC.
- Students completing a Associate in Arts (AA-T) or Associate in Science (AS-T) for transfer cannot use your local GE pattern. These students **MUST** complete either CSU GE Breadth or IGETC.
- Your college can allow students completing CSU GE/IGETC to use that GE pattern to satisfy the requirements for a local AA/AS degree.

18 units (local) or CSU-GE or IGETC?



- Since Title 5 allows your college to have any GE pattern that you want (as long as you meet the minimum requirements), should you make one that meets the minimum or looks like CSU GE/IGETC?
- If students already have the option to use CSU GE/IGETC, do you really need another pattern like those?
- What about students that view their AA/AS as a terminal degree and do not plan to transfer? Do they need as many GE units as it takes to satisfy CSU GE/IGETC?

Have pattern? What's next?



- Once your college has decided on what areas will be included in your GE pattern, the next step is to add courses to each area.
 - The Curriculum Committee should decide on the criteria for determining whether a course satisfies the requirements of a particular area. The requirements should be available for all faculty to review.
 - The Curriculum Committee should decide whether the whole committee will review all GE addition requests or if they want a GE Sub Committee to review these requests and make recommendations.
 - All GE approvals must be approved by the Curriculum Committee. Does this require a separate motion at your college?
 - ✦ Final approval for inclusion on CSU GE Breadth and IGETC is not determined by your local decision.

GE and the Budget



- As budgets continue to be reduced, colleges still have a responsibility to offer courses that will allow students to complete certificates, degrees, and transfer to universities.
 - This means that courses from every part of GE are offered each semester.
- Many faculty have noticed this and want to add more classes to GE so they can make sure those classes are offered regularly.
 - *If you have written criteria for adding courses to each area it will make things much easier.*

Is it GE Forever?



- Most colleges have well established procedures and criteria to add courses to GE but are courses currently approved for GE ever reviewed to see if they are still appropriate?
- GE patterns often grow after they are initially created. Do they ever shrink? Are the areas in your local pattern ever reviewed to see if they still do what was originally intended?
- What other things need to be considered before eliminating courses, proficiencies, or other GE requirements?

Other GE Issues



- **Reciprocity:** Resolution 09.02 F10 (<http://asccc.org/resolutions/general-education-ge-reciprocity-among-california-community-colleges>) asked colleges to consider accepting courses taken at other colleges to satisfy your local GE requirements. Does your college allow this?
- **Assessment of GE:** Your college should have established GE outcomes that are aligned with your GE courses and assessed. How are these assessment results being used to evaluate the effectiveness of your local GE pattern?

Other GE Issues



- **Double Counting for Transfer Degrees:**
Resolution 09.10 F10
(<http://asccc.org/resolutions/double-counting-ge-and-major-courses-new-transfer-degrees>) asked colleges to allow double counting for transfer degrees. Has your college established a policy on this?

Resources



- Guiding Notes for General Education Course Reviewer
http://icas-ca.org/Websites/icasca/Images/VII_Transfer%20Update_a.pdf
- Articulation for Non-Experts: Understanding the Process and Jargon (Rostrum March 2011)
<http://asccc.org/content/articulation-non-experts-understanding-processes-and-jargon>
- The Case for Reciprocity (Rostrum December 2010)
<http://asccc.org/content/case-reciprocity>
- Ethnic Studies Requirement: Understanding It and Fulfilling It (Rostrum January 2010)
<http://asccc.org/content/ethnic-studies-requirement-understanding-it-and-fulfilling-it>

Resources



- Use, Effectiveness, and Awareness of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) An Evaluation (ICAS Publication)
<http://asccc.org/node/174893>
- General Education Model Criteria for the Associate Degree (Academic Senate Publication 1981)
<http://asccc.org/node/174849>
- Association of American Colleges and Universities:
<http://www.aacu.org/resources/generaleducation/index.cfm>

Thank you



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