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The Essential GE Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the GE Breadth requirements, CSU students should show mastery in each of the following:

Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World

Achieved through study in the Sciences and Mathematics, Social Sciences, Humanities, Histories, Languages, and the Arts

Intellectual and Practical Skills, including:

Written Communication
Oral Communication
Critical Thinking
Quantitative Reasoning
Information Literacy and Technology Literacy
Teamwork
Creativity, Inquiry, and Discovery
Personal and Civic Responsibility, including
Global Competencies
Intercultural Competence (cultural values/traditions-U.S.)
Ethical Reasoning and Social Responsibility
Self-Understanding
Foundation and Skills for Lifelong Learning

Integrative Learning, including:

Synthesis and Interdisciplinary Methods of Inquiry

General Education Requirements (48 units*)

The General Education curriculum is organized as three sequential phases. The first is the Foundation, a group of courses designed to provide fundamental learning skills. The second is Explorations, courses distributed across the curriculum that are intended to provide an opportunity to explore the various way of acquiring and examining knowledge while continuing to develop learning skills. The third is the Capstone, designed to integrate knowledge and skills developed earlier in the curriculum. (*Students majoring in departments within the College of Engineering are required to take only 45 units of GE)

In completing the Foundation, Explorations, and Capstone phases of the General Education program, all students must complete a distribution pattern described below.

Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking (Category A, 9 units):

Includes three Foundation Courses:

Written Communication in English (A1), Oral Communication in English (A2), and Critical Thinking (A3)

Natural Sciences and Mathematics (Category B, 9 units)

Includes one course in biological science with lab (B1a) and one course in physical science with lab (B1b). This requirement also includes the fourth Foundation course in Mathematics (B2).

The Arts and Humanities (Category C, 9 units)

Includes one course in the arts (C1) and 6 units in humanities from two of three areas: literature, philosophy, or foreign language (C2).

Citizenship and Social and Behavioral Sciences and History (Category D, 12 units)

Includes one course in US history (D1a) and one course covering the US Constitution, including CA State and local government (D1b). This requirement also includes two additional courses in social and behavioral sciences or history (D2).

Self-Integration (Category E, 3 units)

Includes one course that deals with the human being as a psychological, physiological, and social organism.

GE Electives (Categories B, C, D, 6 units):

Includes up to two additional courses from Natural Sciences and Mathematics, The Arts and Humanities, or Citizenship and Social and Behavioral Sciences and History which may be needed to complete the 48 unit General Education requirement.

Additional GE Requirements

The 48 units above must include courses that also fulfill the following requirements:

Global Issues (GI, 3 units): Requires a course designed to introduce students to cultures and places outside of the US.

Human Diversity (HD, 3 units)

Requires a course designed to introduce students to diverse populations and cultures within the US.

Capstones (9 units)

Capstone courses are upper division General Education courses designed to reinforce advanced college skills such as writing, analysis and critique and are intended for students who have completed at least 60 units. There are three types of capstone courses: Interdisciplinary, Service Learning (3 units max.), and Advanced Skills (3 units max.). Interdisciplinary capstones are not limited.

Capstone courses may simultaneously fulfill the specific requirements in Categories A-E, as well as the Global Issues or Human Diversity requirements.

General Education Policies

Only courses on the General Education Master Course List at the time the student takes the course shall count for General Education.

Because the program is intended to provide breadth, no more than 10 units of General Education courses in the student's major department may be used to satisfy the GE requirements. "Courses in the major department" include all courses housed in the department offering the major, regardless of prefix. There is no limit to the number of units outside the major department that may be used to satisfy both the requirements for the major and the requirements for General Education.

A cross-categorized course may be counted (at the student's option) in any one of the approved categories A-E, but not in more than one.

Where appropriate exams exist, Foundation and Explorations requirements may be met by external examinations, such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams.

Students are expected to complete the Capstone requirement at CSULB. An exception will be made for students who transfer from another CSU campus after completing some