

# General Education

**D**eveloped by both faculty and students, CSU Fresno's General Education Program is an introduction to the breadth and depth of the dynamics of human experience. It provides students with a foundation in the liberal arts and sciences and prepares them for specialized study in a particular discipline or program.

The overall objective of General Education is to create a context wherein basic skills are developed and strengthened, scholarship and disciplined thinking emerge, awareness and reflection occur, and ultimately — the *integration* of knowledge begins.

## CORE, BREADTH and CAPSTONE

The General Education Program is an integrated curriculum of courses organized into three phases:

**CORE**, the basic foundation of one's university education, consists of courses in fundamental skills and knowledge.

**BREADTH** exposes students to a variety of disciplines within a structured framework that develops knowledge and skill representative of all areas of human endeavor.

**CAPSTONE** concludes the General Education Program by providing an interdisciplinary experience at the upper-division level in which the skills and knowledge developed in CORE and BREADTH are integrated, bringing their interrelationships into focus.

## Requirements

The General Education Program requires students to complete a minimum of 51 semester units. This includes 18 units minimum in CORE, 27 units minimum in BREADTH and 9 upper-division units minimum, of which 6 units are in CAPSTONE. The 9 upper-division units can be taken only after completing 56 units of coursework. Also, 9 units must be taken in residence at CSU, Fresno.

Because the goal of General Education is to provide a solid foundation with a broad scope and the goal of the major is to provide depth in a specific discipline or program, the following stipulations apply:

1. A CORE class also may be applied to a student's major requirement unless the department specifically prohibits it.
2. A maximum of two courses from a student's major also may be applied to satisfy BREADTH requirements. (However, a department or program may prohibit any General Education BREADTH course from simultaneously satisfying its own departmental or programmatic requirements.)
3. Courses used to satisfy CAPSTONE may not be used to satisfy requirements for the major.

### CORE

An educated person must be able to read critically, communicate effectively, and think clearly. CORE serves to develop these skills. It is important to take CORE courses soon after entry into the university.

