

## General Education

All developed societies have emphasized education at the college level. Preparation for lifelong learning and the pursuit of career goals has been built on a broad base in the arts and sciences. General Education courses prepare students for advanced studies in a wide and changing variety of fields.

In the California State University system the General Education Program has been re-designed to emphasize command of basic subjects and skills. CSU, Fresno's program, developed by both faculty and students, provides what is planned as a rewarding learning adventure.

The new program introduces students to the breadth and depth of the dynamics of human experience. It provides students with a foundation in the liberal arts and sciences as they prepare to pursue more specialized study within a particular discipline or program. Thus, General Education is the context within which basic skills are developed and strengthened, scholarship and disciplined thinking emerge, awareness and reflection occur, and integration of knowledge begins.

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. College studies are built on this foundation. BREADTH offers a selection of courses organized into divisions of general studies in knowledge and skill representative of all areas of advanced human endeavor. CAPSTONE concludes the General Education Program with a

selection of courses offering the opportunity to integrate the knowledge and skills acquired in BREADTH for in-depth investigation of several important areas of contemporary interest to the informed and thinking person.

The General Education Program requires a minimum of 54 semester units, of which 9 units shall be upper division taken only after completion of 56 units, and 9 units must be taken in residence at CSU, Fresno. Of the 54 units, 15 units minimum must be taken in the CORE, 30 units minimum in BREADTH, and 6 units minimum in CAPSTONE. Additional units as required may be selected from the entire program to complete the 54 units.

The completion of both General Education and a major is required for a degree. The goal of General Education is to ensure a background that has solid foundations and broad scope. A student's major provides depth in a specific area, some foundations of which are in other disciplines.

Therefore: a) CORE courses may be used to satisfy any degree requirements. b) A maximum of two General Education courses from one department or program may be applied to satisfy BREADTH requirements. A department or program may prohibit any General Education BREADTH course from simultaneously satisfying its own departmental or programmatic requirements. c) Courses used to satisfy CAPSTONE may not be used to satisfy requirements for the major.

