

General Education

Developed by both faculty and students, the university'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.

In the 1999-2000 academic year, the university introduced a major revision of the General Education program that the faculty believes is improved in content and which facilitates transfer to the university. All students enrolling in the university as first-time freshmen beginning fall 1999 and after, and all transfer students entering fall 1999 or after who elect to adopt the 1999-2000 catalog will be required to complete this new General Education Program.

Foundation, Breadth, Integration, and Multicultural/International

The General Education Program is an integrated curriculum of courses organized into four groups:

Foundation, 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 in four basic areas of human endeavor.

Integration ties together the Program by providing an integrative experience at the upper-division level in three of the four areas of breadth.

Multicultural/International completes the General Education Program with an upper-division experience as preparation for an international, multicultural world.

Requirements

The General Education Program requires students to complete a minimum of 51 semester units. All requirements must be met with courses of at least three semester units. The requirements include: four courses in **Foundation**, nine courses in **Breadth**, and four upper-division courses -

three **Integration** courses and one **Multicultural/International** course. These four upper-division courses should be taken no sooner than the term in which 60 units of college coursework are completed. A minimum of 9 units of course work for General Education must be taken *in residence* (see *Residence Requirements*, page 86) at California State University, 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. The **Foundation** courses must be completed with a grade of *C* or better to satisfy the General Education requirement.
2. A maximum of two General Education courses from one department or program may be applied to satisfy **Breadth**, **Integration**, and **Multicultural/International** requirements. (However, a department or program may prohibit any General Education course from simultaneously satisfying its own departmental or programmatic requirements.) **Integration** and **Multicultural/International** courses used to satisfy this requirement must be taken outside the department of the student's major.

Writing in General Education Courses

The university's General Education Program requires that almost all courses in the program have substantial writing assignments.

All Foundation courses except those in Quantitative Methods (B4) and all Breadth courses will require writing assignments totaling at least 2,000 words.

All upper-division courses (IB, IC, ID, and M/I) will require writing assignments totaling at least 4,000 words.

Foundation

Purpose: An educated person must be able to read critically, communicate effectively, and think clearly.

Select one course from each of the following four categories for a minimum of 12 units.

- Oral Communication – One A1 course (Area A).
- Written Communication – One A2 course (Area A).
- Critical Thinking – One A3 course (Area A).
- Quantitative Reasoning – One B4 course (Area B).

Breadth

The **Breadth** component of the General Education Program exposes students to a variety of disciplines within the structured framework of Areas B, C, D, and E.

Area B – Physical Universe and Its Life Forms.

Required: one lower-division course in each sub-area. All courses in this area include a laboratory component.

- Physical Science, Sub-Area B1 – one B1 course. (Completion of the **Foundation** Quantitative Reasoning requirement – a G.E. B4 course – is prerequisite to enrollment in all G.E. B1 courses.)

Purpose: To understand and actively explore fundamental principles in the Physical Sciences and the methods of developing and testing hypotheses used in the analysis of the physical universe.

- Life Science, Sub-Area B2 – one B2 course.

Purpose: To understand basic concepts of living things, the nature of scientific knowledge, and the relevance of biological knowledge to human affairs.

Notice to students enrolled under the 1998-99 or earlier catalogs

The revised program presented in this section is different from the program which you are expected to satisfy. Please refer to the catalog under which you are enrolled for information about the requirements and the courses appropriate to those requirements.