



Overall Objectives of the General Education Program

The UCSB General Education program serves two broad purposes. First, it helps students develop habits of mind and approaches to scholarly inquiry that are important within all disciplines in the academy: analyzing data, texts, and artifacts; understanding expectations for written work; developing qualitative, quantitative, and information literacy in a variety of disciplinary contexts; reading and interpreting print, visual, aural, and digital sources carefully and critically; identifying relevant topics and questions across and within academic disciplines; collaborating with others; and articulating ideas using conventions appropriate to diverse academic disciplines.

Second, the Program provides students with an introduction to epistemological practices — that is, ways of knowing and doing — that span disciplinary contexts. Within each GE category, students are exposed to discipline-specific questions for and methods of inquiry, evidentiary practices and processes; possibilities for representation; and conventions of expression (e.g. numerical, visual, verbal, written).

Those who successfully complete the UCSB GE program will be able to:

- Participate in the protocols of scholarly inquiry within and across specific academic disciplines by exploring:
 - How questions are developed
 - What methods are used for investigation
 - What evidence is used to explore questions
 - Appropriate conventions of knowledge organization (form, style, syntax, mechanics, citation)
 - The relevance of inquiry for contemporary contexts
- Locate, interpret, and use academic and vernacular sources (documents, artifacts, performances, etc.) in ways that are appropriate for specific contexts, audiences, and purposes
- Critically read and interpret qualitative, quantitative, primary, and/or secondary sources to inform inquiry
- Demonstrate effective strategies to approaching and understanding key concepts and ideas within particular disciplines
- Articulate understandings of key concepts and ideas through production of texts, performances, or other materials appropriate to the discipline (e.g., documents, artifacts, arguments, performances)

These broad learning goals are disseminated through 11 focus areas within the GE curriculum . The student learning outcomes for each of these areas contribute to the achievement of these overarching goals. Specific outcomes in each area are described below.

General Education Course Proposal Review Process

In evaluating course proposals for inclusion in the General Education Program, the Committee on Courses and General Education (CCGE) applies the following criteria:

1. The content of the course matches objectives and learning outcomes for its General Subject or Special Subject Area Requirement(s) as defined below. As a guideline for General Subject courses, approximately 75% or more of the course content should address the objective and outcomes of the area.
2. The course provides an orientation that is suitable for non-majors to the way learning takes place in your field.
3. The course will be offered regularly, ideally once per year, but at least three times every five years.
4. The course does not have prerequisites, with the exception of one other GE-approved course.
5. The course is already approved in the Master Course Approval (MCA) system.

Please note that course proposals submitted to remove a requirement of any kind will not be effective until the following academic year in order to maintain compliance with publications for the ongoing academic year.

For additional information on General Education requirements and transfer articulation agreements, please follow this link: <https://senate.ucsb.edu/resources.for.department.faculty.and.staff/courses.and.instruction/GE.Course.Proposal.Form.pdf>

General Subject Areas

Area A: English Reading and Composition

Objective: To learn and analyze purposes, audiences, and contexts for writing through study of and practice with writing.

Students who successfully complete the Area A requirement will be able to:

- Produce writing that demonstrates the ability to conduct inquiry in specific contexts using appropriate sources (e.g., academic and non-academic sources; digital and print sources) and methods
- Apply analysis of purpose, audiences, and contexts of writing to the production of written work
- Use flexible processes for writing, reading, research, and analysis to formulate and express ideas
- Reflect on processes for writing, reading, and analysis and consider the relationships between those processes and specific purposes, audiences, and contexts for writing
- Develop and apply strategies to address unintentional violations of convention of content, form,

Area B: Language

Objective: To display basic familiarity with a written and/or spoken foreign language appropriate to discipline.

Students who successfully complete the Area B requirement will be able to:

- Communicate in and/or interpret at a basic level a language other than their own
- Analyze the basic structures and functions of a language other than their own
- Engage in language learning as a social activity
- Demonstrate basic understandings of cultures, practices, products, and cultural contexts where languages are or were used

Area C: Science, Mathematics, and Technology

Objective: To understand methods and applications of science and mathematics, apply them to problems, and describe solutions using language appropriate to the discipline. Courses should be in a single discipline and should be sufficiently broad to provide a base of knowledge about the discipline. Courses may be designated for majors or non-majors.

Students who successfully complete the Area C requirement will be able to:

- Apply the scientific method to questions about the natural world
- Acquire key concepts, facts, and theories relevant to the biological, physical, or technological sciences
- Address the relevance of scientific hypothesis and scientific methodologies to life outside the classroom
- Critically evaluate evidence presented in numerical, statistical, geographical, or graphical form
- Present clear reasoning containing quantitative information
- Extract the information needed to solve a particular problem and determine whether a solution to a problem is reasonable by means of estimation
- Create appropriate models to analyze a type of problem not seen before

Area D: Social Sciences

Objective: To apply perspectives, theories, and methods of social science research to understand what motivates, influences, and/or determines the behaviors of individuals, groups, and societies. Area D courses are based upon systematic studies of human behavior, which may include observation, experimentation, deductive reasoning, and quantitative analysis.

Students who successfully complete the Area D requirement will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental social science concepts and theories
- Describe emergent levels of organization between and among individuals, groups, and/or societies
- Apply discipline-specific theoretical perspectives and methods to questions about interactions between individuals, groups, and/or cultures
- Use a range of sources to inform inquiry into questions related to behaviors and beliefs of individuals and groups in specific disciplinary contexts
- Critically evaluate the merit of claims on the basis of methods and empirical evidence for the discipline
- Explain the relationship between social scientific concepts and social phenomena to contemporary political and social issues

Area E: Culture and Thought

Objective: To use specific methods and frameworks to develop perspectives and abilities that enable the study of culture and thought within specific contexts, and to recognize the role of human agency in defining, maintaining, and adapting cultures.

Students who successfully complete the Area E requirement will be able to:

- Recognize that definitions of culture are constructed by individuals and/or groups within specific contexts and situations and understand factors contributing to or shaping these definitions
- Identify how individuals and/or groups draw on thought and culture to find meaning in events, behaviors, places, objects, images, or ideas
- Understand how those who study culture and thought within specific contexts ask questions, gather and interpret evidence, and represent analysis
- Critically read, interpret, and evaluate primary and secondary evidence in order to address questions about definitions of culture and thought within specific contexts
- Draw on analyses of culture and thought within specific contexts to develop informed perspectives about cultures and identities

Area F: Arts

Objective: To develop an appreciation of fine and performing arts, popular arts, and visual culture and to express relationships between arts and historical or cultural contexts.

Students who successfully complete the Area F requirement will be able to:

- Analyze works of art to understand their component elements and how those elements comprise a whole
- Be able to read and interpret texts and other materials related to the arts
- Represent analyses orally and/or in writing
- Identify relationships between artistic forms and their creators, the cultures in which they are created, and the social, political, cultural, and technological contexts that shape them and which they shape
- Express relationships between and among diverse artistic forms
- Articulate connections between authorial and/or cultural contexts in which works of art are created and their reception and/or performance
- Identify relevance of artistic forms to everyday experience

Area G: Literature

Objective: To learn to analyze texts using methods appropriate to literary study and to situate analysis within contexts where texts circulate.

Students who successfully complete the Area G requirement will be able to:

- Analyze the way literary texts reflect, comment upon, and shape the cultural, social, political, economic, and technological contexts in which they are produced
- Evaluate and interpret literary texts in relation to literary techniques, genres, and traditions
- Apply standard conventions of literary analysis
- Provide evidence from appropriate sources to support textual analysis
- Identify relationships between literary forms and forms of authorship

Special Subject Areas

European Traditions

Objective: To learn to analyze early and/or modern European cultures and their significance in world affairs.

Students who successfully complete the European Traditions requirement will be able to:

- Identify origins, influences, and traditions of European cultures and societies
- Analyze interactions of European cultures and societies with other cultures and societies
- Develop strategies for interpreting actions, artifacts, documents, and/or languages of European cultures and societies

World Cultures

Objective: To learn to identify, understand, and appreciate the history, thought, and practices of one or more cultures outside of the European tradition.

Students who successfully complete the World Cultures requirement will be able to:

- Recognize how cultural patterns change and adapt over time
- Explore questions about the roles cultures play in shaping institutions, identities, and/or practices
- Explore the methods used to investigate the study of cultures
- Reflect critically on their own cultures through an understanding of the cultural experiences of others

Ethnicity

Objective: To learn to identify and understand the philosophical, intellectual, historical, and/or cultural experiences of HISTORICALLY oppressed and excluded racial minorities in the United States.

Students who successfully complete the Ethnicity requirement will be able to:

- Analyze the experiences of oppressed and excluded ethnicities and groups
- Understand the development of ethnic identities from a variety of perspectives
- Situate their own experiences as students and learners of cultural and ideological contexts within the diversity of American society
- Develop perspectives for understanding the experiences of ethnic groups and cultures
- Develop strategies for interpreting cultural activities, traditions, documents, and/or the material cultures of members of particular ethnic groups

Quantitative Relationships

Objective: To develop and apply basic quantitative methods to relevant questions or areas of study.

Students who successfully complete the Quantitative Relationships requirement will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to collect, interpret, and effectively utilize data and quantitative information
- Use mathematics or other abstract models to express and understand causal relationships

Writing Requirement

Objective: To study and practice with writing, reading, and critical analysis within specific disciplines. Students will demonstrate abilities by producing written work totaling at least 1800 words that is independent of or in addition to written examinations. Assessment of written work must be significant consideration in total assessment of student performance in the course.

Students who successfully complete the Writing requirement will be able to:

- Produce writing that uses rhetorical conventions appropriate to different disciplines and, if appropriate, languages
- Identify the roles that types of writing play in the production and circulation of knowledge within specific disciplines
- Identify the role of evidence in writing within specific disciplines
- Locate, interpret, and use discipline-specific evidence appropriately
- Use conventions of organization, style, coherence, structure, syntax, and mechanics appropriate to specific disciplines
- Use citational style and form appropriate to specific disciplines

Request to Add or Remove General Education *General* Subject Area Eligibility:

Note: Applications for more than one General Subject Area are rarely approved and require substantial justification.

Add: Area A Area B Area C Area D Area E Area F Area G

Requested effective date (quarter/year): _____ **Note: Retroactive effective dates must be justified on a separate sheet.**

Remove: Area A Area B Area C Area D Area E Area F Area G

Requested effective date (quarter/year): _____ **Note: Retroactive effective dates must be justified on a separate sheet.**

Justification to be provided by the instructor(s) who teaches the course: For new General Subject Area proposals, explain why this course belongs in the proposed area. Explicitly reference the student learning outcomes for the area (see previous pages). In your justification, indicate the specific ways in which the basic concepts, discourses, theories, methodological issues, and/or analytical tools of the requested subject area are addressed in this course and how the approved learning outcomes for that area are achieved. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

General Education courses must be appropriate for students who have never taken and may never take another course in this field. What prior knowledge and/or skills (beyond UCSB admission requirements) do students need in order to succeed in this course? Based on the overall objectives of the GE Program, explain why this course is particularly suited for general education.

Request to Add or Remove *Special* Subject Area Eligibility:

Add: Writing World Cultures European Traditions Ethnicity Quantitative Relationships

Requested effective date (quarter/year): _____ **Note: Retroactive effective dates must be justified on a separate sheet.**

Remove: Writing World Cultures European Traditions Ethnicity Quantitative Relationships

Requested effective date (quarter/year): _____ **Note: Retroactive effective dates must be justified on a separate sheet.**

Justification to be provided by the instructor(s) who teaches the course: For new Special Subject Area proposals, explain why the course is appropriate for the requested designation(s). Explicitly reference the student learning outcomes for the area (see previous pages). If writing requirement approval is requested, list the writing assignments that will be used to fulfill this requirement, including the number of writing assignments, stylistic expectations, length, and percentage of grade accounted for. Also explain how students will receive instruction and feedback on writing in the course. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

For CCGE Use Only:

Request approved for GE General Subject to: Request denied

Add: Area A Area B Area C Area D Area E Area F Area G

Remove: Area A Area B Area C Area D Area E Area F Area G

Comments: _____

Request approved for GE Special Subject to: Request denied

Add: Writing World Cultures European Traditions Ethnicity Quantitative Relationships

Remove: Writing World Cultures European Traditions Ethnicity Quantitative Relationships

Comments: _____

Effective date (quarter/year): _____

CCGE Chair's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____