



Chapter 6

General Education

General Education Philosophy and Plans

Cerritos College offers an array of general education coursework to students so that they may learn concepts and methods of inquiry that have breadth, depth, and relevance to their lives. The general education curriculum includes coursework from the liberal arts, humanities, sciences, mathematics, arts, social science, and ethnic studies disciplines. Possession of knowledge from these disciplines contributes to personal growth, professional development, and citizenship by increasing students' awareness of the past and present, and by developing their creative, adaptive, and critical thinking abilities. The general education curriculum provides students with opportunities to:

- Develop a lifestyle that will enhance physical and mental health awareness
- Develop logical and cogent arguments, reaching conclusions that are based on comprehensive inquiry
- Adapt and apply technology to facilitate the acquisition and effective use of information
- Communicate clearly and proficiently through both oral and written expression
- Enhance the appreciation of artistic offerings
- Become informed citizens and problem-solvers to deal with current and future societal issues
- Appreciate the contributions of different cultures, eras, and traditions to the human experience, and
- Develop an appreciation for the value of ethics, integrity, honesty, self-management and the welfare of others

The college has developed two distinct general education patterns to meet students' needs:

Cerritos General Education Curriculum (CGEC) is designed primarily for students interested in completing a local associate degree (i.e., Associate of Arts or Associate of Science) to prepare for a vocational career upon graduation.

California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) is designed primarily for students interested in transferring to either a California State University or University of California campus. It is the required GE pattern for completion of an Associate Degree for Transfer (i.e., Associate in Arts for Transfer or Associate in Science for Transfer).

Inclusion of courses into any of the patterns is completed at discipline request and, when required, coordination with the CSU and UC systems. The college's Curriculum Committee determines the appropriateness of requests based on answers to a survey request developed by the committee.



Answers to the General Education Questions should address the proposed course specifically; boilerplated answers are discouraged. Disciplines are asked to summarize the:

- **Course integrity**
Does the course present its own beginning, middle, and end in contrast to a course that is primarily a part of a sequence of courses?
- **Scope**
Does the course expose students to a wide spectrum of principles or beliefs or knowledge in the general subject area?
- **Critical thinking**
Does the course require students to make critical comparisons of the principles or beliefs or knowledge in the general area covered by the course?
- **Individual values and beliefs**
Does the course aim, specifically, at developing the ability to examine, to evaluate, and to express the student's individual values?
- **Integration of knowledge**
Does the course aim, specifically, at integrating the course material with knowledge from other general education areas?
- **Common universe of discourse**
Does the course prepare the student to read or to speak about and understand general audience media presentation in the general area covered by the course?
- **Culture and heritage**
Does the course aim at the transmission and critical examination of the culture and heritage and consider its implications for the future?
- **Continuing study**
Does the course provide a broad base of knowledge and technique from which the student can continue learning in the general subject matter area?



Cerritos General Education Curriculum (CGEC)

CGEC requires a minimum of 24 semester units of general education in the areas described below:

- **Subject Area 1: English Communication** (2 courses: 6 semester or 8 quarter units):
 - **Subject Area 1A: English Composition** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units) – Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.
 - **Subject Area 1B: Oral Communication and Critical Thinking** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units) – Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses.

- **Subject Area 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning**
(1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and may include mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer languages, and related disciplines.

- **Subject Area 3: Arts and Humanities** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and develop students' aesthetic understandings and abilities to make value judgments. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

- **Subject Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences**
(1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about how people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in cultural Implementation of Revisions to Associate Degree Regulations, Title 5 § 55060-55062.



- **Subject Area 5: Natural Sciences** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena, helping students appreciate and understand the scientific method and the relationships between science and other human activities. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

- **Subject Area 6: Ethnic Studies** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

Courses fulfilling this requirement may include baccalaureate-level courses in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies: Black Studies; African American Studies; Africana Studies; Native American Studies; Chicano/a/x; Latino/a/x Studies/La Raza Studies; and Asian American Studies.

- **Subject Area 7: American Institutions** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

This requirement is designed to equip students with a foundational understanding of the nation's historical and political development through the study of U.S. history or government, equipping them with the civic knowledge necessary for active and informed participation in a democratic society. Students will fulfill this requirement by completing either a course dealing with U.S. history or U.S. government.

- **Subject Area 8: Self-Development**

(1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units. Exempt for majors requiring 32 or more units)

This requirement is designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings. Physical activity may be included if it is an integral part of the study elements described herein. Content may include topics such as student success strategies, human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, information literacy, social relationships and relationships with the environment, as well as implications of death and dying or avenues for lifelong learning. Courses in this area shall focus on the development of skills, abilities, and dispositions.

- **Subject Area 9: Physical Activity**

(1 course: 1 semester or 1.5 quarter units. Exempt for majors requiring 32 or more units)

This requirement is designed to promote lifelong health and well-being through active participation in physical movement. Courses in this area will provide students with opportunities to develop physical skills, improve fitness, and understand the principles of movement and performance. Content may include topics such as cardiovascular endurance, strength training, flexibility, motor skills, coordination, and the physiological and psychological benefits of physical activity.



California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)

Cal-GETC requires a minimum of 34 semester units of general education in the areas described below:

- **Subject Area 1: English Communication** (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter units):
 - **Area 1A: English Composition** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units) – The focus of this area and its primary activities involve the practices of academic writing. The instructional goal of the course is to help students practice recursive stages of writing, and to teach students how to make informed decisions in response to varied writing situations – student abilities that transfer to writing across the curriculum.
 - **Area 1B: Critical Thinking and Composition** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units) – Successful completion of the course in Cal-GETC Area 1A (English Composition) develops reading and written composition skills that shall be the prerequisite to the course in Cal-GETC Area 1B (Critical Thinking and Composition), which shall emphasize the development and refinement of critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate and produce academic and argumentative writing. Cal-GETC Area 1B (Critical Thinking and Composition) requirements may be met by those courses in critical thinking taught in a variety of disciplines which build on the rhetorical approaches to writing introduced in Cal-GETC Area 1A (English Composition) by providing, as a major component, instruction in methods of critical reasoning, inquiry-driven research, and argumentative writing.
 - **Area 1C: Oral Communication** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units) – The Cal-GETC Area 1C (Oral Communication) requirement can only be fulfilled by a course taught in English (see Section 5.1.8). Cal-GETC Area 1C (Oral Communication) can be fulfilled by an approved course that provides students with the foundational knowledge and practice of public speaking in a democratic society, to enable them to successfully communicate ideas of an informative and persuasive nature in the public speaking mode, and to critically evaluate the speeches of others.
- **Subject Area 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning**
(1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

The Cal-GETC Area 2 is met by completing a transfer-level course in mathematics, statistics, or other quantitative disciplines. An approved course will have its primary purpose and content focused on mathematics and quantitative reasoning. Additionally, courses approved to fulfill this requirement must address students' ability to develop, present, use, and critique quantitative arguments. For example, a course in statistics must emphasize the mathematical basis of statistics, including probability theory and estimation, applications, and interpretation.



- **Subject Area 3: Arts and Humanities** (2 courses: 6 semester or 8 quarter units)

The Arts and Humanities requirement shall be fulfilled by completion of two courses which encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic, religious, and cultural importance.

- **Subject Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences**
(2 courses: 6 semester or 8 quarter units)

Requirement shall be fulfilled by completion of two courses focusing on how individuals, organizations, institutions, and societies interact and/or behave within socially-constructed dynamics. The two courses used must be from two academic disciplines or in an interdisciplinary sequence (e.g., an inherently interdisciplinary prefix [cf., Social Justice Studies or Global Studies] or if one of the two courses are cross-listed [cf., Psychology and Women's Studies]). The pattern of coursework completed shall provide opportunities for students to develop understanding of the perspectives and research methods of the social and behavioral sciences. Problems and issues in these areas should be examined in their contemporary, historical, and geographical settings. Students who have completed this requirement will have been exposed to a pattern of coursework designed to help them gain an understanding and appreciation of the contributions and perspectives of individuals and groups, including but not limited to diverse genders, sexualities, races, ethnicities, classes, countries, cultures, and societies. The material should be presented from a theoretical point of view and focus on core concepts and methods of the discipline rather than on personal, practical, or applied aspects.

- **Subject Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences**
(At least 2 courses: 7 semester or 9 quarter units)

- A minimum of one course in each area is required, and at least one must include a lab.
- The Physical and Biological Sciences requirement shall be fulfilled by completion of at least two courses: one in Cal-GETC Area 5A (Physical Science) and one in Cal-GETC Area 5B (Biological Science). At least one of these two courses must be associated with a laboratory as defined in Cal-GETC Area 5C (Laboratory). Courses must emphasize experimental methodology, the testing of hypotheses, investigation, and the process of systematic questioning and assessment, rather than the recall of facts, data, and events. Courses that emphasize the interdependency of the sciences are especially appropriate for non-science majors.

- **Subject Area 6: Ethnic Studies** (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

CCC courses for Area 6 could be written with both CSU and UC Ethnic Studies Core Competencies requirements in mind, but the courses must meet either the CSU or UC Ethnic Studies Core Competencies requirement. A course meeting the CSU Ethnic Studies Core Competencies requirement will be deemed to have met the UC Ethnic Studies Core Competencies requirement. Similarly, a course meeting the UC Ethnic Studies Core Competencies requirement will be deemed to have met the CSU Ethnic Studies Core Competencies requirement.



Additional information about Cal-GETC subject areas and course guidelines may be found on the most current version of the Cal-GETC Standards, which are posted on the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) website: <https://icas-ca.org/standards-policies-and-procedures-manual/>.

