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CSU General Education (GE) Requirements

This policy is intended to establish a common understanding of the requirements for California State University (CSU) General Education (GE) and to provide for the certification of courses completed by transfer students at institutionally accredited colleges or universities. Reciprocity among CSU campuses for full and/or subject area completion of GE requirements is also addressed in this policy.

This policy is effective for students subject to the fall 2025 and subsequent catalog years.

This document also addresses:

- Applicability of the policy (Article 1);
- Patterns that fulfill GE requirements (Article 2);
- Premises of CSU GE (Article 3);
- Distribution of GE units (Article 4);
- Transfer and articulation (Article 5); and
- Implementation and governance (Article 6).

Article 1. Applicability

1.1. Prior to Completion of CSU Lower-Division GE Requirements

The requirements, policies and procedures adopted pursuant to this policy are effective for students subject to the fall 2025 and subsequent catalog years who have not previously been enrolled continuously at a campus of the CSU or the California Community Colleges (CCC) and who have not satisfied lower-division GE requirements according to the provisions of Title 5, Section 40405.5 or 40405.3.

1.2. Subsequent to Completion of All CSU GE Requirements

Following completion of CSU GE lower-division and upper-division requirements, a student shall not be required to satisfy additional GE requirements.

Article 2. Fulfilling CSU GE Requirements

2.1. CSU GE Patterns

Policies adopted by the CSU Board of Trustees in March 2024, provide three optional patterns for undergraduate students to fulfill CSU GE requirements:

2.1.1. CSU GE

Fulfillment of CSU GE requirements (Title 5, Section 40405.1), includes completion of all lower-division GE requirements, plus 9 upper-division GE semester units (or 12 upper-division quarter units) consisting of a minimum of 3 semester units (or 4 quarter units) each in Subject Areas 3, 4 and either 2 or 5 completed at a CSU; or

2.1.2. California GE Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)

Completion of the California GE Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) (Title 5, Section 40405.5), as certified by a CCC, in addition to 9 upper-division GE semester units (or 12 upper-division quarter units) consisting of a minimum of 3 semester units (or 4 quarter units) each in Subject Areas 3, 4 and either 2 or 5; or

2.1.3. University of California (UC) Campus Lower-Division

Completion of lower-division GE requirements of a University of California (UC) campus (Title 5, Section 40405.3), as certified by that campus, plus 9 upper-division GE semester units (or 12 upper-division quarter units) consisting of a minimum of 3 semester units (or 4 quarter units) each in Subject Areas 3, 4 and either 2 or 5.

2.2. CSU Systemwide Requirements

2.2.1. GE Requirements

- a. CSU campus GE requirements shall conform to this policy and shall not exceed 34 lower-division and 9 upper-division semester-units (or 45 lower-division and 12 upper-division quarter-units) in the defined GE areas.
- b. A baccalaureate candidate who has not completed Cal-GETC or UC GE specified in Article 2 shall complete the CSU GE requirements described in Article 4, totaling 43 semester units or 57 quarter units.
- c. Subsequent to a change of major, the student shall not be subject to different or additional GE requirements solely to address CSU GE requirements already satisfied.

2.2.2. Minimum Grades

- a. A grade of C- or better is required in each CSU or transfer course in English composition (Area 1A), critical thinking (Area 1B), oral communication (Area 1C) and mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning (Area 2). (Title 5 Sections 40803, 40804, 40804.1).
- b. Each CSU campus shall establish the minimum grades for satisfactory completion of remaining GE courses subject to reciprocity requirements specified in Section 5.3.6 of this policy.

2.2.3. Upper-Division Requirement

Nine upper-division semester units (12 upper-division quarter units) are required according to the following distribution:

- a. Subject Area 2 Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning or Subject Area 5 Physical and Biological Sciences (3 semester or 4 quarter units)
- b. Subject Area 3 Arts and Humanities (3 semester or 4 quarter units)
- c. Subject Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 semester or 4 quarter units)

Upper-division GE courses are designed to be taken after upper-division status is attained. Students enrolling in upper-division GE courses shall have completed required lower-division GE courses in English composition, critical thinking, oral communication, and mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning. Campuses shall require no more than 9 upper-division GE semester units (or 12 upper-division GE quarter units).

2.2.4. Residency Requirement

The 9 semester (12 quarter) units of upper-division GE shall be taken within the CSU. In all cases, students shall meet the residency requirements specified in Title 5 Section 40403.

2.2.5. Exceptions

- a. In the case of an individual student, the campus may grant a partial waiver of one or more of the particular requirements of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 40405.1 to avoid demonstrable hardship. Each campus shall have a clearly stated policy regarding such waivers.
- b. In the case of high-unit major degree programs, the chancellor may grant substitutions to one or more GE requirements for students completing the particular degree program. Such substitution requests must be approved at the campus level prior to submitting the request to the Office of the Chancellor. A full academic justification shall be submitted to the executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs who shall submit their recommendation and the campus recommendation (along with all relevant documents) to the chancellor.
- c. A student who has been admitted to a baccalaureate degree program is exempt from additional GE requirements if:
 - i. The student has previously earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from an institutionally accredited college or university; or
 - ii. The student has completed equivalent academic preparation, as determined by the appropriate campus authority.

The total number of GE units required shall not be allowed to be fewer than nor required to be greater than 43 semester units (or 57 quarter units) in the subject areas described in Article 4.

2.2.6. Double Counting

- a. GE, Major and Other Requirements
Major courses and campus-wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirement.
- b. GE and US History, Constitution, and American Ideals Statutory Requirement
CSU campuses may permit up to 6 semester units or 8 quarter units taken to meet the United States History, Constitution and American Ideals Requirement (Title 5, Section 40404) to double count for lower- or upper-division GE requirements.

Article 3. Premises of CSU GE

3.1. Background

CSU GE requirements have been designed to complement the major program and electives completed by each baccalaureate candidate, to assure that graduates have made noteworthy progress toward becoming truly educated persons. These requirements are designed to provide the knowledge, skills, experiences, and perspectives that will enable CSU students to expand their capacities to take part in a wide range of human interests and activities; to confront personal, cultural, moral, and social problems that are an inevitable part of human life; and to cultivate both the requisite skills and enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Faculty are encouraged to assist students in making connections among disciplines to achieve coherence in the undergraduate educational experience. Courses approved for CSU GE should be responsive to the need for students to have developed knowledge of, or skills in areas including, but not limited to, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, intellectual inquiry, creative and artistic appreciation and/or expression, global awareness and understanding, human diversity including ethnic studies, civic engagement, communication competence, ethical decision-making, scientific literacy, environmental systems, and technology.

3.2. Instructional Modality

GE requirements may be satisfied through courses taught in all modalities (e.g., face-to-face, hybrid, or fully online). Pursuant to California Education Code Section 66763, an online course shall be accepted for credit at the student's home campus on the same basis as it would be for a student matriculated at the host campus.

3.3. CSU GE Program Learning Outcomes

Each CSU campus shall define GE student learning outcomes within a programmatic structure. GE program learning outcomes should be assessed on a regular, periodic basis.

Article 4. Subject Area Distribution

Courses approved to fulfill the following GE subject area distribution requirements should address the

contributions to knowledge and civilization that have been made by members of diverse cultural and gender groups. Campuses shall not exceed area unit requirements as detailed below.

Subject Area 1 English Communication

9 semester units (12 quarter units).

One course in each area.

Area Label	Course	Unit Requirement
Area 1A	English Composition	3 semester or 4 quarter units
Area 1B	Critical Thinking	3 semester or 4 quarter units
Area 1C	Oral Communication	3 semester or 4 quarter units

Subject Area 1 requires 9 semester units or 12 quarter units in English composition (1A), critical thinking (1B) and oral communication (1C). Students taking courses in fulfillment of Areas 1A and 1C will develop knowledge and understanding of the form, content, context, and effectiveness of communication.

Students will develop proficiency in oral and written communication in English, examining communication from the rhetorical perspective and practicing reasoning and advocacy, organization, and accuracy. Students will enhance their skills and abilities in the discovery, critical evaluation, and reporting of information, as well as reading, writing, and listening effectively. Coursework must include active participation and practice in both written communication and oral communication in English.

In critical thinking (1B) courses, students will understand logic and its relation to language; elementary inductive and deductive processes, including an understanding of the formal and informal fallacies of language and thought, and the ability to distinguish matters of fact from issues of judgment or opinion. In 1B courses, students will develop the abilities to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas; to reason inductively and deductively; and to reach well-supported factual or judgmental conclusions.

Subject Area 2 Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning

3 lower-division semester units (4 quarter units).

Additionally, 3 upper-division semester (4 quarter) units may be taken in Subject Area 2 or Subject Area 5 (see Subject Area 5 below).

One lower-division course in this subject area, and one upper-division course in either Subject Area 2 or 5.

Area Label	Course	Unit Requirement
Area 2	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	3 semester or 4 quarter units
Upper-Division	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	3 semester or 4 quarter units (or 0 units if the requirement is met in Subject Area 5)

Through courses in Subject Area 2, students shall demonstrate the abilities to reason quantitatively, practice computational skills, and explain and apply mathematical or quantitative reasoning concepts to solve problems. In addition to traditional mathematics, Subject Area 2 courses may include computer science, personal finance, statistics or discipline-based mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses.

Subject Area 3 Arts and Humanities

9 semester units (12 quarter units), with 3 semester units (4 quarter units) taken at the upper-division level.

One lower-division course in each area, and one upper-division course in either area.

Area Label	Course	Unit Requirement
Area 3A	Arts	3 semester or 4 quarter units
Area 3B	Humanities	3 semester or 4 quarter units
Upper-Division	Arts or Humanities	3 semester or 4 quarter units

Subject Area 3 requires 9 semester units or 12 quarter units among the arts, literature, philosophy and languages other than English.

Across the disciplines in Subject Area 3 coursework, students will cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility and sensitivity. Students will respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and will develop an understanding of the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses. Students will cultivate and refine their affective, cognitive, and physical faculties through studying works of the human imagination. In their intellectual and subjective considerations, students will develop a better understanding of the interrelationship between the self and the creative arts and of the humanities in a variety of cultures.

Activities may include participation in individual aesthetic, creative experiences; however, Area 3 excludes courses that exclusively emphasize skills development. Students may take courses in languages other than English in partial fulfillment of this requirement if the courses do not focus solely on skills acquisition and integrate a substantial cultural component. This may include literature, among other content.

Subject Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences

9 semester units (12 quarter units), with 3 semester (4 quarter) units taken at the upper-division level.

Two lower-division courses and one upper-division course in this subject area. Courses shall be completed in at least 2 different disciplines among the 9 required semester (or 12 required quarter) units.

Area Label	Course	Unit Requirement
Area 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences	6 semester or 8 quarter units
Upper-Division	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3 semester or 4 quarter units

Subject Area 4 requires 9 semester (or 12 quarter) units focused on human social, political and

economic institutions and behavior, and their historical background.

Students learn from courses in multiple Subject Area 4 disciplines that human social, political and economic institutions, and behavior are inextricably interwoven. Through fulfillment of the Subject Area 4 requirement, students will develop an understanding of problems and issues from the respective disciplinary perspectives and will examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts. Students will explore the principles, methodologies, value systems and ethics employed in social scientific inquiry. Courses that emphasize skills development and professional preparation are excluded from Subject Area 4.

Subject Area 5 Physical and Biological Sciences

7 lower-division semester units (9 quarter units), which includes 1 semester (1 quarter) unit allocated for a laboratory.

Additionally, 3 upper-division semester (4 quarter) units may be taken in Subject Area 5 or Subject Area 2 (see Subject Area 2 above).

One lower-division course in each area. One of the two lower-division courses must be associated with a 1 semester (1 quarter) unit laboratory. In addition, one upper-division course in either Subject Area 5 or 2.

Area Label	Course	Unit Requirement
Area 5A	Physical Science	3 semester or 4 quarter units
Area 5B	Biological Science	3 semester or 4 quarter units
Area 5C	Laboratory*	1 semester or 1 quarter unit
Upper-Division	Physical or Biological Science	3 semester or 4 quarter units (or 0 units if the requirement is met in Subject Area 2)

Subject Area 5 courses focus on scientific theories, concepts and data about the physical and biological aspects of the world. Through their courses in Subject Area 5 disciplines, students will achieve an understanding and appreciation of scientific principles and the scientific method, as well as the potential limits of scientific endeavors and the value systems and ethics associated with human inquiry.

The Subject Area 5 laboratory must support learning by exposing students to scientific inquiry, the empirical nature of science, and hands-on experiences in any instructional modality (see 3.2).

**Three semester (or 4 quarter) unit science courses with an embedded laboratory may be used to meet the laboratory requirement as long as the minimum unit value is met for Subject Area 5. Stand-alone laboratories shall be a minimum of 1 semester (or 1 quarter) unit and shall have a prerequisite or co-requisite of the associated lecture course.*

Subject Area 6 Ethnic Studies

3 semester units (4 quarter units).

One course in this subject area.

Area Label	Course	Unit Requirement
Area 6	Ethnic Studies	3 semester or 4 quarter units

This lower-division, 3 semester (4 quarter) unit requirement fulfills [Education Code Section 89032](#). The requirement to take a 3 semester (4 quarter) unit course in this area shall not be waived or substituted.

To be approved for this requirement, courses shall have the following course prefixes: African American, Asian American, Latino/a American or Native American Studies. Similar course prefixes (e.g., Pan-African Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicano/a Studies, Ethnic Studies) shall also meet this requirement. Courses without ethnic studies prefixes may meet this requirement if cross-listed with a course with an ethnic studies prefix. Courses that are approved to meet this requirement shall meet at least 3 of the 5 following core competencies. Campuses may add additional competencies to those listed.

1. Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethnocentrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism as analyzed in any one or more of the following: Native American Studies, African American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Latina and Latino American Studies.
2. Apply theory and knowledge produced by Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities to describe the critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived-experiences and social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group-affirmation.
3. Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age in Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities.
4. Critically review how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation, as experienced and enacted by Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and/or Latina and Latino Americans are relevant to current and structural issues such as communal, national, international, and transnational politics as, for example, in immigration, reparations, settler-colonialism, multiculturalism, or language policies.
5. Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements in Native American, African American, Asian American and/or Latina and Latino communities to build a just and equitable society.

As described in Article 6, CSU campuses may certify upper-division ethnic studies courses to satisfy the lower-division Subject Area 6 requirement so long as adequate numbers of lower-division course options are available to students. As described in Article 2, ethnic studies courses required in majors, minors or that satisfy campus-wide requirements and are approved for Subject Area 6 credit shall also fulfill (double count for) this requirement.

Article 5. Transfer and Articulation

This article pertains to the single GE transfer pattern for students with full Cal-GETC certification from the CCC's, and transfer coursework from institutionally accredited colleges and universities.

5.1. Premises of GE Transfer and Certification

5.1.1. It is the joint responsibility of the public segments of higher education to ensure that students are able to transfer without unreasonable loss of credit or time.

5.1.2. The faculty of an institution granting the baccalaureate degree have primary responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the degree program and determining when requirements have been met.

5.1.3. There shall ordinarily be a high degree of reciprocity among institutionally accredited colleges or universities unless there are specific indications that such reciprocity is not appropriate.

5.2. Conditions for Participation in Cal-GETC Certification

CSU campuses may continue to articulate courses that meet GE requirements from other institutionally accredited colleges or universities. However, only CCC's may participate in the annual Cal-GETC certification process, subject to the following provisions:

5.2.1. The community college shall designate a liaison representative who shall participate in various orientation activities and provide other institutional staff with pertinent information.

5.2.2. The community college shall identify for certification purposes those courses or examinations that fulfill the objectives set forth in Article 3 of this policy and any additional objectives implemented by the CSU chancellor.

- a. The courses and examinations identified should be planned and organized to enable students to acquire abilities, knowledge, understanding and appreciation as interrelated elements, not as isolated fragments.
- b. A course or an integrated set of courses that meet multiple GE objectives may be used to satisfy Cal-GETC requirements.
- c. A course approved to meet multiple GE areas shall only fulfill one Cal-GETC area requirement for certification.
- d. Units earned through an integrated set of courses may be distributed among different GE areas, as appropriate.

5.2.3. The CSU Office of the Chancellor, Division of Academic and Student Affairs, shall maintain lists of courses and examinations that have been accepted for certification purposes by virtue of meeting requirements set forth in this policy for each GE Area.

- a. Each entry on each list shall specify the area to which the course or examination relates, and the number of units associated with each area.
- b. The certification course list shall be updated annually. Each institution shall transmit annually to the CSU Office of the Chancellor, Division of Academic and Student Affairs, any proposed changes to its portion of the list. If a course is to be added or if the specification of areas and objectives for a course is to be modified, the participating institution shall include in its submission the official course outline of record. If a course is part of an integrated set of

- courses, the submission shall identify the set and describe how the course complements the others in the set.
- c. A copy of each list shall be made available in electronic form to any CSU campus or institution.
 - d. The CCC shall be responsible for periodically reviewing its portion of the certification course list to assure that entries continue to be appropriate and to meet the GE area objectives.
 - e. The CCC shall report certification for individual students to the CSU in an appropriate format.

5.3. Cal-GETC Certification Requirements

5.3.1. Definition

Cal-GETC certification indicates that a CCC transfer student has met CSU lower-division GE requirements.

5.3.2. Full Certification

a. Fulfillment of Lower-Division Requirements

Students admitted to a CSU campus with full certification shall not be held to additional lower-division GE requirements.

b. Additional Lower-Division Graduation Requirements

Full certification does not exempt students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the GE program of the campus awarding the degree. For Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) students on a similar pathway, campus graduation requirements shall be accommodated within the remaining 60 units to graduate.

c. Qualification for Full Certification

To qualify for full certification, a student must satisfactorily complete 34 lower-division semester units, or 45 quarter units, of instruction appropriate to meet the objectives of Articles 3 and 4. California Community College (CCC) GE certification does not guarantee that all CSU campus admission requirements have been met. Units must be distributed as follows:

- i. In Subject Area 1, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), including instruction in English composition, critical thinking and composition and oral communication.
- ii. In Subject Area 2, 3 semester units (or the quarter equivalent) in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning.
- iii. In Subject Area 3, 6 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), with at least one course in the arts and one in the humanities.
- iv. In Subject Area 4, 6 semester units (or the quarter equivalent) in social and behavioral sciences, with two courses from two academic disciplines or an interdisciplinary sequence.
- v. In Subject Area 5, 7 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), with one course in physical science and one course in biological science, and one of the two courses must be associated with a 1 semester (1 quarter) unit laboratory.
- vi. In Subject Area 6, 3 semester units (or the quarter equivalent) in ethnic studies.

5.3.3. Approved Associate Degree for Transfer

Students are considered certified for lower-division GE if they successfully complete and are awarded a California Community College (CCC) Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) that includes Cal-GETC certification, as specified in Article 2, Section 1.

5.3.4. Certification of Cal-GETC Courses and Non-California Community College Courses

- a. A CCC may certify coursework completed at another CCC if the courses were on the approved certification list at the CCC. The course shall be certified in the Cal-GETC area that is on the official certification list for the CCC at which the course was completed.
- b. A CCC may include upper-division courses taken at institutionally accredited colleges or universities in certification of Cal-GETC.
- c. Coursework completed at institutionally accredited colleges or universities shall be reviewed for certification purposes by the CCC faculty in the discipline or their designee (e.g., Articulation Officer) to determine if the course is comparable to current Cal-GETC subject area requirements.
- d. CCC's may certify coursework taken at institutionally accredited colleges or universities if the CCC faculty in the discipline or their designee (e.g., Articulation Officer) of that CCC determines that the coursework is equivalent to the coursework on their college's official Cal-GETC certification list.
- e. If the comparable non-CCC course was completed prior to the CCC course's Cal-GETC effective date and meets current Cal-GETC subject area requirements, the non-CCC course may be applied to Cal-GETC.

5.3.5. Maximum Number of Credits Allowed for Certification

Full certification shall not exempt students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the GE program of the campus awarding the degree, so long as the requirement is accommodated within the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT).

- a. **Limit on Certification on Total GE Units**
A CCC shall not certify a student for more than 34 semester units or 45 quarter units. If more than one CCC certifies a student, the CSU campus granting the degree is not required to accept certification for more than 34 semester units or the quarter equivalent.
- b. **Restrictions on Certification of Upper-Division Courses**
No upper-division credit may be allowed for courses taken in a community college (Title 5 Section 40409).

5.3.6. GE Reciprocity Among CSU Campuses

- a. **Lower-Division Reciprocity**
 - i. For the purposes of this section, completion of lower-division GE requirements is equivalent to qualification for full certification, as defined in 5.3.2.
 - ii. Lower-division GE requirements satisfied through a course or an examination at one CSU campus shall be accepted as fulfilling the same requirements at the CSU campus granting the baccalaureate degree.
- b. **Upper-Division Reciprocity**

Upper-division GE requirements satisfied at one CSU campus shall be accepted as fulfilling the same requirements at the CSU campus granting the baccalaureate degree.

c. Subject Area Reciprocity

- i. Subject area courses accepted for CSU GE requirements at one CSU campus shall be accepted at any CSU campus. The student may not be held to any additional lower-division GE coursework in the subject area is fulfilled.
- ii. Students seeking to transfer to another CSU campus under the provisions of this section shall be responsible for requesting verification that lower-division GE program or subject area requirements have been met. Upon the request of a currently or formerly enrolled student, the CSU campus from which the student seeks to transfer shall determine the extent to which that student has satisfactorily completed the lower-division GE requirements in each subject area and shall provide official documentation of such completion.
- iii. Transfer students admitted with documentation of completion of one or more GE areas at another CSU campus may not be held to any additional lower-division GE requirements in that area by the campus awarding the degree.

d. Reciprocity Limitations

The provisions of 5.3.6 do not exempt students from fulfilling unmet lower- or upper- division graduation requirements at the CSU campus awarding the degree or from lower- or upper- division courses required by individual baccalaureate majors at the CSU campus awarding the degree.

Article 6. Implementation and Governance

6.1. GE Advisory Committee

Each member of the systemwide Chancellor's GE Advisory Committee (GEAC) shall have an equal vote. The membership shall include:

- At minimum, six CSU faculty to be appointed by the Academic Senate of the CSU. One shall serve as chair, and another as vice-chair.
- One CSU student to be appointed by the Cal State Student Association,
- One instructional faculty member from the CCC,
- One CSU campus academic affairs administrator,
- One CSU articulation officer,
- One CCC articulation officer,
- One Chancellor's Office administrator to staff the committee (ex-officio, non-voting)
- One CCC Chancellor's Office administrator (ex-officio, non-voting)

The chancellor for the California State University (CSU) or the executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs will request that the committee address and provide advice on issues related to the development and well-being of CSU GE policy and programs.

The responsibilities of this committee shall be as follows:

- a. Report as appropriate to the chancellor.
- b. Review the implications of CSU GE policy for students transferring to the CSU and for the institutions from which they transfer and propose any necessary adjustments to pertinent policies and practices so that students may be better served in their educational pursuits and achievement of the baccalaureate degree.
- c. Study GE policies and practices inside and outside the system and, as appropriate, stimulate intersegmental discussion of GE policy and curricula.
- d. Review and propose revisions to the objectives, requirements, and implementation of CSU GE policy to ensure high-quality GE.

6.2. Campus Responsibility

6.2.1. Development and Revision of Campus Requirements

Campus faculty have primary responsibility for developing and revising the institution's particular GE program. Within the CSU GE distribution framework, each CSU campus is to exercise creativity in identifying courses, disciplines, and learning outcomes. In undertaking this task, careful attention should be given to the following:

a. GE Program Development

- i. Assure that GE requirements are planned and organized so that their objectives are perceived by students as interrelated elements, not as isolated fragments.
- ii. Provide for reasonable ordering of requirements so that, for example, courses focusing on learning skills will be completed relatively early and those emphasizing integrative experiences will be completed relatively later.
- iii. Develop programs that are responsive to educational goals and student needs, rather than programs based on traditional titles of academic disciplines and organizational units.

b. GE Course Development

- i. Consider the organization of approved courses so that students may choose from among a variety of "cores" or "themes," each with an underlying unifying rationale.
- ii. Consider the possibility of incorporating integrative courses, especially at the upper-division level, that feature the interrelationships among disciplines and traditional GE categories.
- iii. Consider possibilities for innovative teaching and learning, including activity as well as observation in all GE coursework.
- iv. Consider designing GE courses to be inclusive and open to all students regardless of disciplinary lens, with GE learning outcomes as the primary focus. Upper-division GE courses should generally not be major-level courses with multiple major-level prerequisites.

c. GE Course Administration

- i. Provide sufficient numbers of Area 1A English composition and Area 2 mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning course sections to allow first-time, first-year students to complete these requirements in the first year of enrollment.
- ii. Review courses approved for GE credit on a regular, periodic basis to assure these courses continue to meet campus GE outcomes and expectations.
- iii. Remove GE status from GE courses that have not been offered within a five-year period.
- iv. Allow upper-division GE courses to fulfill lower-division GE requirements so long as adequate numbers of lower-division course options are available to students.

6.2.2. Campus GE Committee

The effectiveness of a campus GE program depends on the adequacy of curricular supervision, internal integrity and overall fiscal and academic support. Toward this end, each campus shall have a broadly representative GE committee, a majority of which shall be instructional faculty and shall also include student membership. The committee will provide oversight and make recommendations concerning the implementation, conduct and evaluation of requirements specified in this policy. As a companion to the GE committee, a campus may choose to establish a GE program assessment committee to conduct the work described in 6.2.5 of this policy.

6.2.3. GE Requirements and the Development of New Baccalaureate Degrees

The development of new baccalaureate programs shall include consideration of how the degree requirements will incorporate the required GE units, the major program requirements, and other graduation requirements. Justifications must be provided to the Office of the Chancellor for any program extending the baccalaureate credit requirement beyond 120 units (Title 5, Section 40508).

6.2.4. GE Academic Advising

Each campus shall provide for systematic, readily accessible academic advising specifically oriented to GE as one means of achieving greater cohesiveness in student choices of course offerings to fulfill these requirements.

- a. GE Website
Each CSU campus shall provide a public website that describes the institution's GE program. This website should include at minimum: campus GE program requirements, campus and systemwide GE policy, student learning outcomes for GE and courses certified for GE.
- b. Each CSU campus shall clearly identify, in the catalog and/or course schedule, courses that are certified for each GE subject area.

6.2.5. GE Review and Assessment

Campuses shall:

- a. Develop an assessment plan that:
 1. Aligns the GE curriculum with campus GE outcomes;
 2. Specifies explicit criteria for assessing the stated outcomes;

3. Identifies when and how each outcome shall be assessed;
 4. Organizes and analyzes the collection of evidence; and
 5. Uses the assessment results to make improvements to the GE program, courses and pedagogy.
- b. Provide for regular periodic reviews of GE program policies and practices in a manner comparable to those of major programs, including evaluation by an external reviewer. The review should address the meaning, quality and integrity of the campus GE program and how ongoing assessment informs improvements to the delivery of and student learning experiences in GE.
- c. Provide for regular periodic review of GE courses for continuing GE approval (see also 6.2.1.c).

History

Executive Order #338 (GE-Breadth Requirements) was approved on October 29, 1980 and has gone through several iterations since then. Timeline of the historical changes and updates.

10/29/1980 – EO 338 established

04/01/1981 – EO 342 established

11/20/1992 – EO 595 supersedes EO 338 and EO 342

06/18/2008 – EO 1033 supersedes EO 595

09/16/2011 – EO 1065 supersedes EO 1033

02/16/2015 – EO 1100 supersedes EO 1065

08/23/2017 – EO 1100 Revised supersedes EO 1100

12/03/2020 – CSU GE Breadth Requirements (EO 1100) Updated (Attached)

05/02/2024 – CSU General Education (GE) Requirements

Authority

This policy is issued pursuant to Education Code 66763, 89032, 66745-66749.7. Title 5, *California Code of Regulations*, sections 40402.1, 40403, 40405, 40405.1, , 40405.3, 40405.4, 40405.5, and 40508, and the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees, Section II(a). [Section II of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of the California State University](#) as further delegated by the [Standing Delegations of Administrative Authority](#).

All Revision Dates

5/6/2024, 12/3/2020, 8/23/2017

Attachments

[12032020 - CSU General Education Breadth Requirements \(EO 1100\) Updated.pdf](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
EVC	Nathan Evans: Deputy VC ASA ,Chief Acad Offc	5/6/2024
Area Manager	Christina Cruz: Comm Spclst, Acad & Sdnt Affrs	5/2/2024
Owner	Laura Massa: Interim Assoc VC Acd&Fac Prgms	5/2/2024

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