

Narrative Description of G.E. Requirements

Lower Division G.E. Requirements (60 Units)

Area A: Communication in the English Language (12 units)

You must complete this area of the G.E. Requirements in your freshman year unless a year or more of remediation is required. You must enroll in sections of Area A1 and A2 courses which are linked to the freshman thematic learning community you select in Area B, Area C, or Area D. You must also enroll in an activity class each of the first two quarters of the learning community (see Area G, G.E. Electives).

A1 Oral Communication (4 units)

A course satisfying Area A1 must be passed with a grade of "A," "B," "C," or "CR." (To receive general education credit for A1, A2, A3, or B4, students must take a course approved for the corresponding area and must receive a "C-" grade or better in the course. These courses may be taken as CR/NC, and a CR grade will satisfy the requirement

Students who have completed general education requirements should be grounded in the rhetorical principles that govern public presentations. These principles are fundamental to sound reasoning and clear expression. The principles foster open-mindedness and information competence combined with critical thinking and analytical skills, and an awareness of, and ability to adapt to audience, context, and purpose.

Criteria: A course meeting the Oral Communication requirement is based upon communication theory presented through lecture, discussion, and reading. It must provide several opportunities for a planned sequence of speaking and listening experiences in at least two of the following modes: (a) small-group (problem-solving) discussion, (b) interpersonal communication, (c) expository discourse presented extemporaneously, (d) argumentative and persuasive discourse presented extemporaneously. The course must provide you with constructive criticism of both substance and form of communication and must reflect awareness of the cognitive and emotional conditions dealt with by people who communicate with others. You will complete at least five oral assignments demonstrating increasing skill in oral communication.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your A1 requirement, you should have developed the following competencies in speaking and listening.

Speaking: (1) know how to choose and narrow a topic appropriately for a specific audience and occasion; (2) communicate the thesis/specific purpose in a manner appropriate for the audience and the occasion; (3) provide appropriate supporting material based on the audience and occasion and using appropriate technology (PowerPoint, demonstration, etc.) to present the material to the audience; (4) present logically sound, non-fallacious arguments; (5) recognize and address audience viewpoints appropriately; (6) present ideas organized in a fashion appropriate to topic, audience, occasion, and purpose; (7) use language, vocal variety, and physical behaviors that are appropriate to the audience, occasion and purpose and maintain interest and support the verbal message.

Listening: (1) recognize that listening is an interaction among the speaker, message, and audience; (2) understand the public or private context in which the interaction occurs; (3) engage with the ideas, the supporting details, and the relationships among ideas; (4) attend to messages with an open mind; (5) question speakers and messages; (6) evaluate messages using criteria appropriate to the context.

A2 Written Communication (4 units)

A course satisfying Area A2 must be passed with a grade of "A," "B," "C," or "CR." (To receive general education credit for A1, A2, A3, or B4, students must take a course approved for the corresponding area and must receive a "C-" grade or better in the course. These courses may be taken as CR/NC, and a CR grade will satisfy the requirement)

Students who have completed general education requirements should be grounded in the rhetorical principles that govern reading and writing. These principles are fundamental to logical thinking and clear expression. For reading, they presume open-mindedness combined with critical thinking and analytical skills; and for writing, they presume an awareness of audience, context, and purpose.

Criteria: A course meeting the freshman composition requirement assumes that you should, at the time of entry, be able to write brief essays showing adequacy in (a) selection of a controlling idea appropriate to the given writing task, (b) coherent development of that idea to a reasoned conclusion, (c) use of sentences that demonstrate some structural variety and contain language appropriate to the audience and purposes, and (d) control of conventions of standard written English (relative freedom from errors such as fragments, run-together sentences, faulty agreement, and improper pronoun reference) and of mechanics (capitalization, spelling, and punctuation). The work of the freshman English course is to strengthen these skills by extensive practice in the writing of expository essays suitable for college-level credit. If you are not exempt from the EPT and do not score 147 or higher on the test, you must pass one or more remedial English courses before enrolling in the A2 course (see Registration chapter). G.E. Area A2 must be completed by the time you reach 90 quarter units or future registration will be blocked.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your A2 requirement, you should have developed the following competencies: (1) read for the meaning of a text by determining its purpose, intended audience, and significance; (2) understand the historical context of the text; (3) engage with and offer thoughtful responses to ideas in the text; (4) question authors and texts; (5) evaluate the text according to criteria appropriate to the context; (6) realize that writing is a recursive process involving prewriting and revision; (7) compose an essay with a clear thesis and evidence to support the thesis; (8) understand the role of logically sequenced and fully developed paragraphs; (9) develop and have confidence in one's own ideas; (10) demonstrate awareness of other points of view and how to address them; (11) incorporate research into an essay, including summarizing, paraphrasing, and properly quoting and citing material from other sources; (12) know the ethics of academic writing and of accuracy in the use of evidence; (13) organize an essay in light of audience expectations; (14) present material logically and without fallacies; (15) present material in language appropriate for the context, usually in standard written English that is grammatically and syntactically correct; (16) be familiar with strategies for timed writing.

A3 Critical Thinking (4 units)

A course satisfying Area A3 must be passed with a grade of "A," "B," "C," or "CR." (To receive general education credit for A1, A2, A3, or B4, students must take a course approved for the corresponding area and must receive a "C-" grade or better in the course. These courses may be taken as CR/NC, and a CR grade will satisfy the requirement)

Students who have completed critical thinking requirements will develop clarity and rigor in reasoning and its presentation, and the ability to understand, represent, and evaluate the presentations of reasoning made by others.

Criteria: A course meeting the critical thinking G.E. requirement focuses primarily on: (a) identifying, analyzing, evaluating, and presenting arguments, (b) learning elementary inductive and deductive reasoning, and (c) recognizing formal and informal fallacies. You will complete a minimum of six assignments demonstrating critical thinking in a variety of contexts. At least four of these assignments must be written. A critical thinking textbook or its equivalent is required in all courses meeting this requirement.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your A3 requirement, you should have developed the following competencies: (1) use the rules and strategies of deductive, inductive, and natural language reasoning; (2) apply the rules and strategies for testing validity; (3) evaluate statistical reasoning; (4) recognize fallacies of reasoning; (5) present orally and in writing well-reasoned cases both to support a proposition and to refute another's claim.

Area B: Natural Sciences and Quantitative Reasoning (16 units)

Students who have completed natural science and quantitative reasoning requirements will gain basic knowledge and learn key principles in the life and physical sciences, recognize the vital role experiments play in adding to scientific knowledge, and understand modern methods and tools used in scientific inquiry.

Criteria: G.E. courses in the physical and life sciences teach the methodologies of science, including systematic observation and experimentation. The laboratory course required in this General Education Area provides first-hand experience in making observations in the natural world or laboratory, the techniques and procedures of making those observations, and techniques and procedures for organizing and analyzing observations. In addition to a working knowledge of the methods of science, you will acquire an understanding of the fundamental principles of particular disciplines.

B1-3, 5 (12 units)

You must select one course in physical science and one in life science, courses from three different disciplines, and at least one of the courses must have a laboratory. You may select a freshman learning community or complete your science requirements in your second year. Sophomore courses assume a higher level of basic skills (completion of Area A and B4 requirements).

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your B1-3 requirements, you should have developed the following competencies: (1) demonstrate broad science content knowledge in the physical and life sciences; (2) demonstrate the application of quantitative skills to science problems; (3) demonstrate a general understanding of the nature of science, the methods applied in scientific investigations, and the value of those methods in developing a rigorous understanding of the physical and living world; (4) identify the difference between science and other fields of knowledge; (5) distinguish science from pseudoscience.

B4 One Course in Quantitative Reasoning (4 units)

A course satisfying Area B4 must be passed with a grade of "A," "B," "C," or "CR." To receive general education credit for A1, A2, A3, or B4, students must take a course approved for the corresponding area and must receive a "C-" grade or better in the course. These courses may be taken as CR/NC, and a CR grade will satisfy the requirement)

Criteria: G.E. courses in quantitative reasoning teach you skills and concepts that build on what you have previously mastered in intermediate algebra. Courses that satisfy Area B4 foster the development and use of formal skills and concepts appropriate to the specific course. They emphasize problem solving, reasoning skills, and the communication of mathematical or statistical ideas. If you are not exempt from the ELM requirement and do not score 50 or higher on the test, you must pass one or more remedial Mathematics courses before enrolling in the B4 course (see Registration chapter).

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your B4 requirement, you should have developed the following competencies.

Quantitative Literacy: (1) know formal mathematical concepts and formulae; (2) find sources for key mathematical ideas.

Numeracy Skills (Reasoning): (1) manipulate and use theories; (2) graphically display and interpret quantitative results; (3) perform basic arithmetic skills.

Problem Solving (Thinking): (1) identify and analyze real or potential problems; (2) apply appropriate quantitative theories; (3) evaluate appropriate quantitative measures; (4) explain or discuss results in quantitative terms.

You must complete your quantitative reasoning G.E. requirement in your freshman year unless three quarters of remediation are needed. In any case, G.E. Area B4 must be completed by the time you reach 90 quarter units or future registration will be blocked.

Area C: Humanities (12 units)

C1-3 (12 units)

You must select one course in the Fine Arts and one in Letters (see below) and courses from three different disciplines. You may select a freshman learning community or complete your Humanities requirements in your second year. Sophomore courses assume a higher level of basic skills (completion of Area A requirements). No Cal State East Bay course used to meet the U.S. history and government code requirement may be applied to Area C. Language courses taken to clear Area C1, Fine Arts, may not be taken credit-by-exam.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your C1-3 requirements, you should have developed the following competencies: (1) demonstrate through oral and written works how foundational works in the humanities illuminate enduring human concerns and the intellectual and cultural traditions within which these concerns arise, including both classical and contemporary artists and theorists; (2) demonstrate a developing understanding of how historical and cultural contexts, individual works, and the development of humanities over time, interact; (3) demonstrate ability to critically employ concepts, theories, and methods of analysis used in the humanities to interpret and evaluate enduring human concerns; (4) critically reflect on the formation of human goals and values, and articulate an understanding of the creativity reflected in works of the humanities that influenced the formation of those values.

C1 Fine Arts (4 units)

Criteria: Courses meeting this requirement have as their major component the integration of evaluative and descriptive aspects of the history, theory, aesthetics, and criticism of different works, forms, styles, and schools of art.

C2 Letters (4 units)

Criteria: Courses in this area examine significant written and oral texts of the creative intellect. The major goals are: (a) to teach the critical examination of ideas and theories through the use of historical, linguistic, literary, philosophical, and rhetorical approaches and methods; and (b) to encourage understanding of enduring human concerns and the intellectual and cultural traditions within which they arise.

C3 An Additional Humanities Course in either Fine Arts or Letters

Area D: Social Sciences (12 units)

Students who have completed social science requirements will become acquainted with basic principles, methodologies, theoretical problems, and applications in those sciences whose field of study is human behavior in its social environment. No Cal State East Bay course used to meet the U.S. history and government code requirement may be applied to Area D.

D1-3 Basic Requirements (12 units)

You must select three courses in the social sciences from three different disciplines. You may select a freshman learning community or complete your social sciences requirements in your second year. Sophomore courses assume a higher level of basic skills (completion of Area A and B4 requirements).

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your D1-3 requirements, you should have developed the following competencies: (1) demonstrate, orally and in writing, recognition of the application of disciplinary concepts derived from at least three social or behavioral sciences in the study of human behavior, individually and in society; (2) demonstrate, orally and in writing, recognition of the inquiry methods used by at least one of the social or behavioral science disciplines; (3) demonstrate, orally and in writing, the ability to describe how human diversity and the diversity of human societies influence our understanding of human behavior, individually and in societies, both local and global; (4) demonstrate, orally and in writing, some knowledge of the political, social, and/or economic institutions of a country other than the United States; (5) demonstrate, orally and in writing, the ability to describe major positions and contrasting arguments made on one or more significant contemporary issue area confronting U.S. society as applied to human behavior.

Criteria: Courses fulfilling the Basic Social Science requirements present the fundamental principles and methods of inquiry that are grounded in social science disciplines.

Area F: Performing Arts and Activities (4 units)

Criteria: Courses in this area provide an opportunity to develop an appreciation of the visual and performing arts and activities through direct experience. Students are guided by participation toward an understanding of the techniques, processes, and possibilities inherent in such aspects of culture as art, theatre, music, creative writing, and sport. Courses in this area enhance student development through accomplishment. At least 40% of the class time in these courses must be activity or performance.

Area G: Electives (4 units)

G1-2-3 Activity Courses Accompanying Freshman Learning Communities (2 units)

This is a one-unit and two .5-unit activity courses (two hours of class) which accompany the freshman learning communities (Areas B1-3, C1-3, D1-3).

Criteria: They integrate the thematic and Area A course content, build learning communities, and integrate academic skill development and support services. They also include the development and honing of particular skills (e.g., writing, speaking, calculating, and reasoning) at various levels depending on the individual student's proficiency.

G4 Information Literacy (2 units)

Criteria: Courses fulfilling this G.E. requirement develop information processing and technical competencies. The former include the ability to recognize a need; find resources; access, evaluate, and organize information; understand ethical, social and legal dimensions; and communicate information. The latter include the ability to select and use the appropriate technology.

Upper Division G.E. Requirements (12 units)

To be eligible to begin taking upper division G.E. courses, you must have completed 90 quarter (60 semester) units, your lower division G.E. requirements, including critical thinking (Area A3), ENGL 1002, and the University Writing Skills Requirement. You may complete Areas B6, C4, and D4 in your junior or senior year.

The 12-unit upper division General Education program of Cal State East Bay serves a variety of purposes. It enables students to study subjects outside their majors at a more advanced level than in lower division G.E. courses by building on the skills developed in earlier classes in English composition, oral communication, critical thinking, and information literacy. The upper division Science course (Area B6) focuses on scientific inquiry and stresses numeracy, quantitative analysis, information literacy, and critical thinking skills. The upper division Humanities course (Area C4) focuses on history, literature, and philosophy, and stresses advanced writing, speaking, and reasoning skills. The Social Sciences course (Area D4) focuses on the application of the methodologies and research findings of the social sciences to significant contemporary problems, and stresses advanced writing and information literacy skills.

Upper division G.E. courses also give students the opportunity to explore new subjects unrelated to their majors, or to complement their majors with supportive courses in departments outside their major department. Students may ask their major advisors for a list of courses that relate to, and support study in their major field.

Area B6: Upper Division Science (4 units)

A 4-unit upper division course in the sciences (life or physical science) that includes numeracy, quantitative analysis, information literacy, and critical thinking skills. Students must complete their lower division B1-5 requirements prior to taking their B6 course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your B6 requirement, you should have developed the following competencies: (1) demonstrate advanced and/or focused science content knowledge in a specific scientific field using appropriate vocabulary and referencing appropriate concepts (such as models, uncertainties, hypotheses, theories, and technologies); (2) apply advanced quantitative skills (such as statistics, algebraic solutions, interpretation of graphical data) to scientific problems; (3) demonstrate understanding of the nature of science and scientific inquiry and the experimental and empirical methodologies utilized in science to investigate a scientific question or issue; (4) critically analyze scientific claims and data; (5) apply science content knowledge to contemporary scientific issues (e.g., global warming) and technologies (e.g., cloning), where appropriate.

Area C4: Upper Division Humanities (4 units)

A 4-unit upper division course in the humanities (history, literature, philosophy) that includes a significant writing component and emphasizes advanced communication and critical thinking skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your C4 requirement, you should have developed the following competencies: (1) demonstrate an understanding of, and ability to, apply the principles, methodologies, value systems, and thought processes employed in human inquiries; (2) demonstrate an understanding of the cultural endeavors and legacies of human civilization; (3) be able to discuss and deliberate about opposing viewpoints in an insightful and logical manner; be able to present an opposing side fairly and to criticize the argument rather than attacking the person; (4) demonstrate a developing intellectual curiosity and a habit of lifelong learning through choice of research topics, the number and quality of questions asked in class, the application of course concepts or themes to lived experiences or world events, or through other similar means; (5) demonstrate the potential for participating in, and contributing to, a democratic society as an informed, engaged, and reflective citizen.

Area D4: Upper Division Social Sciences (4 units)

A 4-unit upper division course applying the research findings of the social sciences to significant contemporary problems and emphasizing advanced writing and information literacy skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of your D4 requirement, you should have developed the following competencies: (1) demonstrate an understanding of and ability to accurately apply disciplinary concepts of the social or behavioral sciences to the study of human behavior, individually and in society; (2) demonstrate an understanding of, and the ability to, effectively conduct or plan research using an inquiry method of the social or behavioral sciences; (3) explain in writing, using examples, how human diversity and the diversity of human societies influence our understanding of individual and collective human behavior; (4) develop advanced skills in oral and written argument in the social or behavioral sciences.