

Superseded by PS 9100

California State University, Long Beach

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POLICY STATEMENT

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Academic Senate Office

Number: 83-04
Supplement No. 1

File: General Education

The following policy was recommended by the
Academic Senate in its meeting of December 13, 1984
and received the concurrence of the President on
April 30, 1985.

SUBJECT: GENERAL EDUCATION AND GRADUATE CREDIT

No course identified in the Bulletin as available for credit in a graduate
program will be permitted for General Education credit.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 1987

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California State University, Long Beach

POLICY STATEMENT

April 14, 1983

Number: 83-04

File: General Education

This curricular policy, recommended by the Academic Senate in its meeting of January 27, 1983, was approved by the President on March 17, 1983.

SUBJECT: GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE CONTENT CRITERIA

The distribution of courses in General Education for California State University, Long Beach is established in University Policy Statement 81-11, "General Education Breadth Requirements." This policy defines the categories A through F. The categories are consistent with the requirements for Title 5, Section 40405, except categories D.1 and F, which are consistent with Title 5, Section 40404. The integration of these statutory requirements is authorized under Executive Order No. 338.

The following statements of course content criteria for courses approved in categories A through F are those of Executive Order No. 338, except for courses in Categories D.1 and F:

Instruction approved to fulfill the following requirements should recognize the contributions to knowledge and civilization that have been made by members of various cultural groups and by women.

Category A. A minimum of nine semester units in communication in the English language, to include both oral communication and written communication; and in critical thinking, to include consideration of common fallacies in reasoning.

Instruction approved for fulfillment of the requirement in communication is to be designed to emphasize the content of communication as well as the form, and should provide an understanding of the psychological basis and the social significance of communication, including how communication operates in various situations. Applicable course(s) should view communication as the process of

human symbolic interaction focusing on the communicative process from the rhetorical perspective: reasoning and advocacy, organization, accuracy; the discovery, critical evaluation, and reporting of information; reading and listening effectively, as well as speaking and writing. This must include active participation and practice in written communication and oral communication.

Instruction in critical thinking is to be designed to achieve an understanding of the relationship of language to logic which should lead to the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas; to reason inductively and deductively; and to reach factual or judgmental conclusions based on sound inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief. The minimal competence to be expected at the successful conclusion of instruction in critical thinking should be the ability to distinguish fact from judgment, belief from knowledge, and skills in elementary inductive and deductive processes, including an understanding of the formal and informal fallacies of language and thought.

Category B.

A minimum of 12 semester units to include inquiry into the physical universe and its life forms with some immediate participation in laboratory activity and into mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning and their applications.

Instruction approved for the fulfillment of this requirement is intended to impart knowledge of the facts and principles which form the foundations of living and nonliving systems. Such studies should promote understanding and appreciation of the methodologies of science as investigative tools, the limitations of scientific endeavors, namely, what is the evidence and how was it derived? In addition, particular attention should be given to the influence which the acquisition of scientific knowledge has had on the development of the world's civilizations, not only as expressed in the past, but also in present times. The nature and extent of laboratory experience is to be determined by each campus through its established curricular procedures. In specifying

inquiry into mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning and their application, the intention is not to imply merely basic computational skills, but to encourage as well the understanding of basic mathematical concepts.

Category C. A minimum of 12 semester units among the arts, literature, philosophy, and foreign languages.

Instruction approved for the fulfillment of this requirement should cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility, and sensitivity. It is meant, in part, to encourage students to respond subjectively as well as objectively to experience and to develop a sense of the integrity of emotional and intellectual response. Students should be motivated to cultivate and refine their affective as well as cognitive and physical faculties through studying great works of the human imagination which could include active participation in individual esthetic, creative experience. Equally important is the intellectual examination of the subjective response, thereby increasing awareness and appreciation in the traditional humanistic disciplines such as art, dance, drama, literature, and music. The requirement should result in the student's better understanding of the interrelationship between the creative arts, the humanities, and the self. Studies in these areas should include exposure to both Western cultures and non-Western cultures.

Foreign language courses may be included in this requirement because of their implications for cultures both in their linguistic structures and in their use in literature; but foreign language courses which are approved to meet a portion of this requirement are to contain a cultural component and not be solely skills acquisition courses. Campus provisions for fulfillment of this requirement must include a reasonable distribution among the categories specified as opposed to the completion of the entire number of units required in one category.

Category D. A minimum of 12 semester units dealing with human social, political, and economic institutions and behavior and their historical background.

Three units, identified as Category D.1, deal with United States history as required in Title 5, Section 40404.

The purpose of this requirement is to foster in students an awareness of the American experience and of the people institutions, circumstances, and events in American history that have shaped contemporary conditions in the United States.

The requirement is intended to enable students to function as responsible and constructive citizens.

Courses meeting this requirement should, at a minimum, include the following:

- a. an analysis of the significant events occurring within the entire territory of the United States, including the relationships among regions within that area and/or relationships with external regions and powers, as appropriate;
- b. a chronological span of not less than 100 years;
- c. an examination of the nature and extent of the continuity of the American experience within itself and with the cultures from which it is derived;
- d. consideration of the relationship of such factors as geography, religion, natural resources, economics, cultural diversity, and politics to the development of the nation during the time period covered;
- e. coverage of the role of national, economic, ethnic, gender, and socio-economic groups in the events described;

- f. introduction to the groups and individual leaders who have been instrumental in the development of the United States;
- g. attention to the phenomenon of conflict (or change) as a variable in the American national experience.

The remaining nine (9) units, identified as Category D.2, are defined as follows:

Instruction approved for fulfillment of this requirement should reflect the fact that human social, political, and economic institutions and behavior are inextricably interwoven. Problems and issues in these areas should be examined in their contemporary as well as historical setting, including both Western and non-Western contexts. Campus provisions for fulfillment of this requirement must include a reasonable distribution among the categories specified as opposed to completion of the entire number of units required in one category.

Category E. A minimum of three semester units in study designed to equip human beings for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological and psychological entities.

Instruction approved for fulfillment of this requirement should facilitate understanding of the human being as an integrated physiological, social, and psychological organism. Courses developed to meet this requirement are intended to include selective consideration of such matters as human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, health, stress, key relationships of humankind to the social and physical environment, and implications of death and dying. Physical activity could be included, provided that it is an integral part of the study described herein.

Category F. A minimum of three semester units in the study of the United States Constitution and American ideals.

The purpose of this requirement is to give students a comprehensive understanding of, and

appreciation for, American political institutions and processes established by the United States and California State Constitutions, as provided for in Title 5, Section 40404.

Students will acquire the knowledge and skills essential to effective political participation and citizenship.

All courses meeting this requirement must at a minimum include the following:

- a. the political philosophy of the Framers of the Constitution and the nature and operation of United States political institutions and processes which operate under that Constitution as amended and interpreted;
- b. the rights and obligations of citizens in the political system established under that Constitution;
- c. principles and practices of political organization, including political parties, interest groups, legislative politics, and campaign practices;
- d. analysis of the American citizenry, including: political culture and voting behavior;
- e. constitutionally--and legislatively--established administrative and regulatory institutions, including: analysis of bureaucracies and their impact on citizens at the national, state, and local levels;
- f. the Constitution of the State of California within a framework of the historical evolution of the State and the nature of the processes of state and local government under that Constitution;
- g. the nature of federalism, including the relationship of federal to state and local practices, the resolution of jurisdictional conflicts, and the political processes involved.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

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