

**Undergraduate Catalog**  
General Information and  
Announcement of Courses

**Fall and Spring Semesters 1978-79**

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# General Education

## Rationale

Because students spend only a small percentage of their adult lives in formal and organized academic preparation, higher education can only be—at best—an introduction and an incentive to lifelong learning and to intelligent participation in society. With that in mind the University has sought to provide each student with an opportunity to participate in the following aspects of the learning adventure:

- Information:** the raw material for thinking, analysis, reflection and discourse
- Methods of Inquiry:** a training of the intellect in the varieties of methodology developed in the several discipline categories
- Basic Skills:** the ability to analyze ideas and data, to relate these to other materials, to develop arguments at once logical and cogent, to reach conclusions, and to present the results of this process with clarity and style in a variety of communicative media
- Qualities of Mind:** a respect for data and unpleasant facts; an appreciation for the arts; tolerance, commitment, a taste for learning; perpetual curiosity and a sensitivity to ethical considerations.

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The academic major which each student selects provides training in depth within a single discipline. The provision in most majors for a number of free electives allows students to follow personal interests. Beyond these important aspects of every student's academic career lies *education for breadth*—the opportunity to explore other societies, their cultural variety, and the products of human thought and mechanical ingenuity; the chance to learn new analytical approaches and to evaluate other perspectives and problem-solving techniques; the promise of an introduction to new areas of knowledge and new career options. The general education requirement is the introductory phase of the breadth process.

## Resources

To aid students in the process of developing a meaningful and integrative program in general education the University offers these further forms of assistance:

- (1) Academic advisement including assistance with general education, throughout the year.
- (2) A special listing, in the *Schedule of Classes*, of those courses which the faculty have identified as particularly appropriate for meeting the general education requirement in each category.
- (3) An *Advising Section* in the *Schedule of Classes* with information and suggestions about how to maximize educational opportunities through general education and the wise use of electives.

## Requirements

The present policy of the Board of Trustees of The California State University and Colleges is that students graduating from any CSUC campus must fulfill certain breadth requirements. These minimum requirements consist of 40 semester units (60 quarter units) of courses approved by a campus for general education. At least 32 semester units must be taken in categories defined as natural science, social science, humanities and basic subjects, with at least two courses in each of those categories. Partial or full credit may be transferred from another institution; a community college may, for example, certify that a student has met all of these requirements.

Each campus in the CSUC system has the right to define which of its classes satisfy general education requirements, to determine which courses are transferable from other institutions (except where full credit has been certified), to add requirements which apply to native and transfer students alike, and to enact other limitations. At this University it is the policy that natural science shall include at least one laboratory course, that humanities shall include at least one course in the fine arts, and that basic subjects shall be interpreted as basic communications. In addition, this University has included within the 40 units of breadth requirement a Trustee requirement for competence in American history, government and Constitution; a campus requirement for one course in English composition; and an optional category which allows courses from any school or program on campus to qualify for general education.

Throughout, this University has tried to insure that each student has a great deal of freedom in choosing specific courses, though it is hoped that choices will be made on the basis of a well-thought-out plan which incorporates the principles set forth above. For students who wish to combine this requirement in a meaningful whole, various routes are available. The Liberal Studies core program satisfies all General Education requirements, as do selected courses in the General Honors Program. (See Special Programs for further information.)

Courses in academic programs which cross traditional disciplinary lines may be taken to meet appropriate category requirements. If an individual interdisciplinary course qualifies for credit in more than one category, a student may choose which requirement the course fulfills, provided that choice is made no later than the end of the semester preceding graduation.

All of these possibilities are subject to the following limitations. At least 32 of the 40 semester units must be chosen from Categories I through V. To satisfy the minimum 40 units of breadth requirement a student may not use more than 15 units in any single department or ethnic studies program, more than nine units in the category in which the student's major is listed, or any courses in the student's major department (with the exception of those courses required to satisfy Category V). There are, of course, no limits on what a student takes for breadth beyond the first 40 units, and it is the policy of the University to encourage students to broaden their education as much as possible.

The six categories recognized at California State University, Long Beach are defined as follows:

- I. *Natural Science*—Two or more courses (totaling six or more units) in the Departments of Biology (which includes anatomy and physiology, biology, botany, entomology and zoology); Chemistry; Geology; Microbiology or Physics (which includes astronomy and physical science). At least one laboratory science course must be included.

Courses in departments, programs or areas, other than those specified above, which earn students credit in this category are expressly identified as carrying category I credit in this *Bulletin* and in the *Schedule of Classes*.

- II. *Social Sciences*—Two or more courses (totaling six or more units) in the Departments of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Social Welfare or Sociology or offered by the Center for Urban Studies, exclusive of any courses chosen to satisfy the requirements of U.S. History, Government and Constitution, included in category V.

Courses in departments, programs or areas, other than those specified above, which earn students credit in this category are expressly identified as carrying category II credit in this *Bulletin* and in the *Schedule of Classes*.

- III. *Humanities*—Two or more courses (totaling six or more units). One of these must be either a philosophy course (offered by the Philosophy Department), a religious studies course (offered by the program of Religious Studies) or a literature course offered by one of the following departments: English, Comparative Literature, French-Italian, German, Russian and Classics or Spanish-Portuguese.

A second course in this category must be an appropriate course in one of the following departments: Art, Dance, Music or Theatre Arts. (The departments named will decide which of their courses are appropriate.)

Courses in departments, programs or areas, other than those specified above, which earn students credit in this category are expressly identified as carrying category III credit in this *Bulletin* and in the *Schedule of Classes*.

- IV. *Basic Communication*—Two or more courses (totaling six or more units) in English composition, foreign language (other than literature courses), journalism, mathematics, radio-television, speech communication or courses in statistics or computer language and applications selected from an approved list. No course meeting the requirement of any other General Education category may be used to meet this requirement.

Courses in departments, programs or areas, other than those specified above, which earn students credit in this category are expressly identified as carrying category IV credit in this *Bulletin* and in the *Schedule of Classes*.

- V. *Special Subjects*—One course in United States history; one course in United States government and Constitution (Political Science Department); and one course in English composition. The student has the option of receiving credit by examination; departments will make such examinations available. A student who fails any such examination has the option of repeating the examination without penalty, or taking the course(s) which satisfy the requirement. A student who has met any of these requirements prior to enrollment at CSULB is exempt. Unit credit (to be included in the 40-unit general education requirement total and in the total number of units required for graduation, but not in the student's grade point average) shall be granted for satisfactory completion of examination in these subjects. Credit by examination, however, is subject to conditions specified in this *Bulletin*.

- VI. *Optional Electives*—Within the total of 40 units required, up to eight units may be selected from courses offered by any departments other than those in the School of the student's major. However, units in health science and physical education may be elected under this option by all students except health science and physical education majors. Courses for this category are available in the School of Applied Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education and Engineering as well as in the School of Fine Arts, the School of Humanities, the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the School of Natural Sciences.