

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

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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 is—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 specified as being appropriate for 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 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, and to enact other limitations. *At this University it is the policy that only courses specifically approved may be used to fulfill the general education requirement. A list of approved courses appears in the Schedule of Classes.* It is also the policy of this University 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.

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 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). At least one laboratory science course must be included.

Courses in the natural science category aim at developing in the student a general understanding of and appreciation for a part of the body of knowledge accumulated by the natural sciences. They seek to acquaint the student with the scientific method, and to foster an understanding of the principles which provide the material basis of natural phenomena.

Students in courses in the natural sciences should develop the ability to think analytically, to reason critically and to synthesize information from varied sources through the application of qualitative and quantitative problem solving methods. These courses should enable the student to follow new developments in the natural sciences in intelligent laymen's terms and

should consequently enable the student to think in an informed manner about human issues which involve natural phenomena.

Courses which may be used to satisfy the natural science laboratory requirement should provide the student with first-hand experience in the use of the scientific method, the gathering of facts through experiments and observations, the organization of data, and the analysis and interpretation of this information. The student should gain some acquaintance with the methods and techniques used by practicing scientists. Natural science courses which are aimed at training the student in a specific limited set of applied skills rather than acquainting the student with the principles of natural phenomena may not be used for General Education credit.

Courses for which students earn credit in this category are expressly identified as carrying category I credit in the *Schedule of Classes*.

- II. *Social Sciences*—Two or more courses (totaling six or more units) exclusive of any courses chosen to satisfy the requirements of U.S. History, Government and Constitution, included in category V.

Courses included in category II provide students with a broad introduction to a discipline in the social or behavioral sciences. These courses will emphasize the variety of individual and social experience as seen from a cultural, economic, environmental, historical, political, psychological or sociological perspective. They will assist students to understand how individual behavior, institutions, societies or cultures develop, interact and influence value systems.

Courses included in category II are intended to introduce students to methods of thinking analytically about human behavior based upon knowledge from systematic observations of individuals, groups and institutions in various societies. Such courses should enhance the students' sensitivity to behavior, societies or cultures which may be different from their own.

Courses primarily devoted to statistics, measurement and computer skills are not included in this category.

Courses for which students earn credit in this category are expressly identified as carrying category II credit in the *Schedule of Classes*.

- III. *Humanities and Fine Arts*—Two or more courses (totaling six or more units).

A. *Literature and Philosophy (minimum of 3 units)*—Courses in the first subdivision of category III provide students with a realization and appreciation of the cultural heritage of man in what are normally recognized as the Humanities. These courses emphasize the exploration and development of social, ethical, spiritual or intellectual values.

The courses in this category encourage students to develop the spirit of scholarly inquiry, including critical thought, sensitivity to languages and creativity.

B. *Fine Arts (minimum of 3 units)*—Courses in the second subdivision of category III give students a knowledge of, and experience with, various conceptual and physical approaches to the creation of a work of fine art, combined with theory and relevant historical examples.

The courses focus on developing the student's capacity for understanding and appreciating the visual and performing arts.

Performance and activity courses that are oriented to developing specialized skills are not included in this category.

Courses for which students earn credit in this category are expressly identified as carrying category III credit in the *Schedule of Classes*.

- IV. *Basic Communication*—Two or more courses (totaling six or more units).

Courses in category IV are intended to develop those personal communication skills which facilitate the student's acquisition and utilization of knowledge in the Natural Sciences, the Social Sciences and the Humanities.

Students in these courses should develop their verbal or quantitative ability to learn and communicate by

1. speaking and/or writing clearly and effectively in English or a foreign language, or
2. using a quantitative symbolic language in the form of mathematics, statistics, logic or computer programming.

Courses for which students earn credit in this category are expressly identified as carrying category IV credit 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. All courses in the University may count in this category. They must, however, be outside the School of the student's major, except that units in health science and physical education may be elected under this option by all students except health science and physical education majors.