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GENERAL EDUCATION

General Education is an important aspect of the baccalaureate degree and of your personal development. It is the part of your university program which encourages you to develop or improve such basic life skills as self-motivation, independence, creativity, critical thinking, an understanding of values, and a general philosophy by which to make decisions throughout life. Possession of these skills makes possible continued personal growth and the further development of your creative and adaptive capabilities. It is the basis for lifelong learning, and it can increase your ability to be self-directing.

At California State University, Long Beach, courses approved for General Education credit provide:

- Information: the raw material for thinking, analysis, reflection, and discourse;
- Basic Skills: the ability to analyze ideas and data; to relate these to other materials, to develop arguments both logical and cogent, to reach conclusions, and to present the results of these processes with clarity and style;
- Methods of inquiry: direction and practice in methodologies of the several disciplines;
- Qualities of Mind: a respect for data and unpleasant facts; tolerance, commitment, a taste for learning; an appreciation of the arts; creativity, perpetual curiosity, and a sensitivity to ethical considerations.

The General Education Program at CSULB includes both the breadth requirement defined by policy of the Board of Trustees of The California State University campus and the graduation requirements in United States History and in American Institutions (Sections 40405 and 40404, Title 5, California Code of Regulations). Within the program, a minimum of 9 semester units must be upper-division general education courses taken at the campus conferring the degree. Credit toward the remainder of the program may be transferred from another institution. A participating, regionally-accredited institution may certify completion of an approved pattern 39 lower-division semester units that meets all breadth categories.

General Education Requirements

To receive a baccalaureate degree from California State University, Long Beach, you must complete at least 51 semester units of General Education courses distributed as specified below. Only courses specifically approved for General Education and so listed in the *Schedule of Classes* for the semester in which you take the course may be used to fulfill General Education requirements. At least three units of the 51 General Education units must be instruction which focuses on global issues or world societies and cultures (Global Issues Courses). At least three units of the 51 General Education units must be instruction which focuses on instructive examples of human diversity (Human Diversity Courses). At least nine of the 51 General Education units must be upper-division units taken at CSULB and after you achieve upper-division standing (completion of 60 semester units). The 51 units of General Education course work include three units of work in U.S. History and three units in

U.S. Constitution and American Ideals, required by Section 40404, Title 5, California Code of Regulations. (See Category D. below). Title 5 provides that each student shall demonstrate competence by completing a course in these fields or by passing a comprehensive examination in them. These examinations are provided by the Departments of History and Political Science, respectively.

No course in your major department may be used to satisfy G.E. requirements with these exceptions: all courses in Category A, Category B.1.a for life science majors, Category B.2 for mathematics majors, Category C.1 and C.3 for art and music majors, Category D.1.a for history majors, Category D.1.b for political science majors, all interdisciplinary courses (I), and human diversity courses (HD; identified with "♦" in the *Schedule of Classes*) for all majors. A cross-categorized Interdisciplinary Course may be counted (at the student's option) in any one of the approved categories, but not in more than one.

Engineering and Technology students may have special GE requirements.

First Year: Foundation

The first year at CSULB is designed to devote special attention to the development and improvement of fundamental academic skills that are critical to student success in college. Every CSULB student will be expected to demonstrate mastery of key academic skills early in their course of study, ideally within the first year. Among the skills most central to success are communication in English, both written and oral, mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning, and analytical and critical thinking. Students also need a solid foundation in skills for learning, including the ability to read for information, information-retrieval skills, the use of the library, and basic computer skills. In addition, all first-year students will receive an introduction to the University. Finally, the University is committed to fostering the development of communities of learners, and it will provide to all incoming students opportunities for the formation of learning communities.

The Foundation curriculum consists of twelve units of general education courses that meet the distribution requirements in Categories A and B2, and one unit of University 100. The following courses make up the Foundation:

- University 100 (1 unit), "The University." This course is a graduation requirement for students entering as lower-division students. It is coordinated pedagogically with the skills and content of the first-year curriculum. It introduces students to the history of universities (including the history, mission, and character of CSULB) and current issues in higher education. It introduces students to the use of our academic research library and also introduces them to the skills essential for success in an academic environment. It does not count toward the 51 units required in General Education
- One 3-unit course in written composition in English.
- One 3-unit course in oral communications.

- One 3-unit course in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning.
- One 3-unit course in critical thinking.

The courses listed above must all be completed with a grade of at least "C". Where appropriate exams exist, Foundation requirements may be met by advanced placement.

The 13-unit Foundation curriculum must be completed by the time a student has completed 36 units, except that lower-division transfer students have at least one semester in residence to complete the requirements.

Courses in the Foundation curriculum are numbered from 100 to 199. All other General Education courses have pre- or co-requisites from the Foundation curriculum, and all General Education courses numbered 200 or higher have the entire Foundation curriculum as prerequisites. General Education courses numbered between 100 and 199 may appropriately be taken at the same time as courses in the Foundation curriculum.

Explorations

After an early focus on fundamental learning and academic skills, students will have an opportunity to explore human knowledge in many disciplines. The Explorations stage encompasses all areas outside the Foundation curriculum, except the final nine units of General Education, described under "Capstone."

Although the primary purpose of Explorations is the development of breadth of knowledge, all courses offer opportunities for continued development of foundational skills. Reading, writing, oral discussion and presentation, problem solving and/or quantitative reasoning, and critically- and analytically-based research are central to the learning of content.

In addition, as you progress through the Explorations, you are expected to develop additional skills and attributes, including ethical reasoning, analytical reading, creativity, respect for difference, awareness of other cultures, questioning of stereotypes, the values of citizenship, negotiating skills, and other attributes of use in a diverse society.

Capstone

The final nine General Education units form the Capstone. All students, including transfer students who have completed a certified lower-division General Education program, must complete 9 units of Capstone courses. You must take these courses at CSULB. The purpose of the Capstone is to bring the strands of the General Education experience into focus, to reinforce knowledge and skills acquired from many areas, and to incorporate depth in the form of more sophisticated tools and analysis, if not necessarily in terms of content knowledge. For transfer students, the Capstone may offer an opportunity to connect to the campus in a learning community outside of the major department.

Capstone General Education courses are at the upper division level. Prerequisites for these courses include upper division standing and the entire Foundation curriculum, along with one or more prerequisites from the Explorations stage. All Capstone courses are designed to develop advanced college skills, including synthesis and application of knowledge, analysis, critique, and research.

Capstone classes are classified as Interdisciplinary (identified with the letter "I" in the *Schedule of Classes*), Advanced Skills (identified with the letter "A" in the *Schedule of Classes*), Service Learning (identified with the letter "S" in the *Schedule of Classes*), or Linked (identified with the letter "L" in the *Schedule of Classes*). Students are permitted to count no more than one Advanced Skills class and one Service Learning class toward the 9-unit Capstone requirement.

Global Issues

You must complete at least three units of coursework devoted to global issues or world societies and cultures (designated with a W or "●" in the *Schedule of Classes*). This may be in any category. (For students under the 1998 or earlier catalog, the Global Issues course must be in Category D.)

Human Diversity Requirement

At least three units of the General Education program must be coursework that focuses on instructive examples of human diversity in the United States. The course may be in any category. Human Diversity courses are identified with a "◆".

Distribution Requirement

General Education units must be distributed as follows:

Category A

Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking — 9 units to include:

1. One approved course in written English;
2. One approved course in oral communication or a combination of oral and written communication, to include an understanding of the process of communication and experience in communication;
3. One approved course in critical thinking, designed to develop the ability to reason clearly and logically and to analyze the thinking of others.

Category B

Physical Universe — 12 units to include:

1. At least six units of inquiry into the physical universe and its life forms to include one approved course in the life sciences and one approved course in the physical sciences; both must involve laboratory experience;
2. At least three units of study in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning; approved courses foster an understanding of mathematical concepts rather than merely providing instruction in basic computational skills;
3. Another three units as necessary, selected from approved courses, to achieve a minimum of 12 units.

Category C

Humanities and the Arts — 12 units to include:

1. At least three units from approved fine arts courses;
2. At least six units from approved courses to include courses in at least two of the following areas:
 - a. literature
 - b. philosophy, and
 - c. foreign languages.
3. Another three units as necessary, selected from approved courses to achieve a minimum of 12 units.

Category D

Social and Behavioral Sciences and Their Historical Backgrounds — 15 units to include:

1. Citizenship:
 - a. Three units selected from courses in U.S. History;
 - b. Three units selected from courses in U.S. Constitution and Ideals, including state and local government.
2. Additional Social and Behavioral Sciences
At least 9 units from the approved courses in at least two disciplines.

Category E

Self-Integration — 3 units:

- At least three units selected from approved courses which facilitate understanding of the human being as an integrated physiological, psychological, and social organism.