

# GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

## Academic Affairs Policy Statement No. 14

### 1. References

- a. Statutes of the University of Georgia, Article IV, Section 2.
- b. Bylaws of the University Council of the University of Georgia, Section IIIB4.

### 2. Definitions

- a. General Education  
“As used by the University System [of Georgia], general education encompasses the educational experiences of all undergraduates regardless of their majors.” (University System of Georgia, *Student Learning Outcomes in General Education, 1994, p. iv*)
- b. Basic Core of General Education  
A requirement of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is that each undergraduate degree program include a minimum of 30 semester hours of basic general education courses to “include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics.” In addition, the “institution **must** demonstrate that its graduates are competent in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills and the basic use of computers.” (*Criteria for Accreditation, 1998, Sec. 4.2.2*)
- c. University System Core  
In order to assure the transferability of the lower division core courses required by one institution to another University System of Georgia institution, the University System has stipulated the size and content of courses offered as the basic core of general education by its institutions:  
Area A. Essential Skills - 9 semester hours.  
Area B. Institutional Options - 4 to 5 semester hours.  
Area C. Humanities/Fine Arts - 6 semester hours.  
Area D. Science, Mathematics, and Technology - 10 to 11 semester hours.  
Area E. Social Sciences - 12 semester hours.
- d. University of Georgia Core Curriculum  
The core curriculum provides the foundation for future studies by introducing students to a liberal education and providing instruction which engages both student intellect and curiosity. The University of Georgia’s core curriculum should empower the student to participate in debate and advocacy of issues critical to community, state, and nation.  
  - (1) **Area A. Essential Skills - 9 semester hours**  
Language courses should contribute to the basic skills of critical reading and clear writing (as indicated by the ability to analyze an argument or a work of literature, and to present, in writing, a logical argument or an analysis of a work of literature.)  
  
Quantitative courses should contribute to the basic skills of analyzing real-world phenomena using at a minimum the computational methods of arithmetic and algebra, as well as data collection and interpretation.

- (2) **Area B. Institutional Options - 4-5 semester hours**
- (3) **Area C. Humanities/Fine Arts - 6 semester hours**  
Candidates should have developed the knowledge, vocabulary, and critical skills necessary to understand and analyze the power of literature and the other arts.
- (4) **Area D. Science, Mathematics, and Technology 10-11 semester hours**  
D.I. - Four-hour science course with laboratory  
Scientific Literacy  
The ability to understand the history, processes, and findings of scientific inquiry as well as to appreciate scientific explanations of natural and physical processes. This understanding should include the ability to make informed decisions on contemporary issues that have substantial scientific components.
- D.II. - Three-hour science course with or without laboratory  
Scientific Literacy  
The ability to understand the history, processes, and findings of scientific inquiry as well as to appreciate scientific explanations of natural and physical processes. This understanding should include the ability to make informed decisions on contemporary issues that have substantial scientific components.
- D.III. - Three or four-hour mathematics, science, or technology courses  
Quantitative Literacy  
Basic quantitative literacy and skills required to function effectively in contemporary society, including computational skills, the ability to interpret and present data, and the ability to apply quantitative reasoning to the solution of diverse problems in a variety of applied areas.
- (5) **Area E. Social Sciences - 12 semester hours**  
The ability to understand and to address issues related to the human condition. Knowledge and application competencies in such academic disciplines as psychology, history, sociology, political science, economics, and other areas related to living in a culturally diverse world.

### **3. Procedures**

- a. Matters related to objectives, goals, requirements, and general education are the responsibility of the University Council Curriculum Committee. Council consideration of these matters should follow consideration and recommendation by the Committee.
- b. The University Council Curriculum Committee will review proposals of courses from the faculties of the University which they view as appropriate for meeting the general education objectives.
- c. Courses recommended by the Committee for the inclusion in the general education curriculum of the University shall be forwarded through the Provost for approval by the University System of Georgia Council on General Education.