

CRITERIA FOR AREAS OF GENERAL EDUCATION

Presented here are criteria for the areas of:

I. Language and Rationality

- > IA. English Composition
- > IB. Communication and Analytical Thinking
- > IC. Writing and Critical Thinking (AA)

II. Natural Sciences

III. Humanities

IV. Social and Behavioral Sciences

V. Wellness

- > VA. Kinesiology
- > VB. Health (AA)

VI. American Institutions (AA)

VII. Program-Based GE (AS)

- > AC. American Cultures
- > MP. Mathematics Proficiency

I. Language and Rationality

Courses in the area of Language and Rationality teach logical thinking and critical evaluation, as well as an appreciation of the uses of language through both oral and written channels. They also promote an understanding of how language conveys meaning as a symbolic system. This area consists of three sub-areas: English Composition, Communication and Analytical Thinking, and Writing and Critical Thinking.

IA. English Composition: Courses in the area of English Composition should require that students demonstrate reading comprehension for a range of college-level texts, write essays demonstrating college-level reasoning and organization in academic prose, and apply basic research skills in written form.

IB. Communication and Analytical Thinking: Courses in the area of Communication and Analytical Thinking require students to apply principles of logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation of communication in whatever symbol system the student uses.

Courses fulfilling the Communication and Analytical Thinking requirement are typically in areas including, but not limited to, communication studies, foreign languages, mathematics, logic, statistics, and computer languages and programming.

IC. Writing and Critical Thinking (AA): Courses in the Writing and Critical Thinking area should require that students analyze, synthesize and evaluate academic and cultural texts, write complex argumentative essays, demonstrate critical thinking skills in class discussion and in writing, and use appropriate research techniques to produce an acceptable research paper.

II. Natural Sciences

Courses in the area of Natural Sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. Courses shall be presented from a theoretical point of view and focus on core concepts and methods of a science discipline.

Through completing courses in this area, students will:

- develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method and investigative tools, the limitations of scientific endeavors including questioning evidence and how it was derived, experimental methodology, and the power of systematic questioning rather than only the recall of facts,
- develop an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities, including the influence that scientific knowledge has had on the development of the world's civilizations,
- develop the ability to distinguish between opinion based upon preconceptions and conclusions based upon controlled scientific experiments, as well as the ability to solve scientific problems in both theoretical and applied contexts.

Courses fulfilling the Natural Science area include, but are not limited to, astronomy, biology, chemistry, physical geography, geology, physical anthropology, and physics.

III. Humanities

Courses in the Humanities area focus on the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Humanities courses offer both a subjective and objective perspective on great works of the human imagination from both Western and non-Western traditions. These courses include active participation in individual aesthetic and creative assignments and experiences that elicit intellectual and emotional responses in students.

Through completing courses in this area, students will do the following:

- gain an awareness and appreciation of traditional creative disciplines, such as the visual arts, music, literature, film, and performative arts.
- increase the awareness and understanding of philosophical thought, spiritual values, mythological lessons, scientific discovery, political and social institutions, and foreign languages.
- employ critical thinking, investigative methods, and personal reflection to create and shape value judgments based on expanded perspectives provided by these subjects.

Courses fulfilling the Humanities requirement include, but are not limited to, courses in the following areas: music, theater arts, fine arts (art, photography, visual communications), foreign languages, history, humanities, philosophy, and religious studies.

IV. Social and Behavioral Sciences

Courses in the area of Social and Behavioral Sciences focus on analyzing human behavior, social interaction, and social, political, and economic institutions, and the relationships among them in cultural, geographical, and historical contexts.

Through completing courses in this area, students will do the following:

- gain a broad understanding of the historic foundations of social change, intellectual ideas, and various cultural practices that shape the contemporary human social world,
- develop global consciousness and multicultural awareness by appreciating the contributions of all people, especially those of historically underrepresented backgrounds,
- analyze problems and issues using the respective disciplinary principles, methodologies, value systems, and ethics of social and behavioral sciences.

Courses fulfilling the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement are typically in areas including, but not limited to, administration of justice, anthropology, early childhood development, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and women's studies.

V. Wellness

Courses in the area of Wellness balance and contribute to a student's academic learning and help students develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that promote a lifelong commitment to physical well-being, health, and fitness.

VA. Kinesiology: Courses in Kinesiology require students to develop an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle through physical activity, focus on the development of overall well-being through physical activity, and incorporate key principles of healthy lifestyle and physical activity to enhance quality of life.

Courses in Kinesiology include a variety of physical activity courses.

VB. Health (AA): Courses in Health require students to learn health and wellness concepts, critically evaluate scientifically-derived knowledge about health, identify methods for -and challenges of- maintaining a healthy lifestyle, describe relationships of personal, community, and global health issues.

Courses in Health include, but are not limited to health, early childhood education, psychology, nutrition, and kinesiology.

VI. American Institutions (AA)

Courses in this area fulfill the CSU U.S. History, Constitution, and American Ideals graduation requirement which calls for study in 3 areas:

The historical development of American institutions and ideals (Area US-1),
The Constitution of the United States and the operation of representative democratic government under the Constitution (Area US-2), and
The process of California state and local government (Area US-3).

VII. Program-Based GE (AS)

Courses in this area must be from another GE area, minimum of 3 units, and are determined by the program discipline to be integral to the completion of the program.

AC. American Cultures

Courses in American Cultures explore a variety of American ethnic groups and cultures and the ways in which their relationships are critical to American society.

Courses in this area require students to do the following:

- study at least one major American ethnic or cultural group in a comparative and integrative way,
- use the words of the identified groups themselves, to the extent possible, and
- focus on the study of contributions of the identified groups to American culture.

Courses in American Cultures include, but are not limited to sociology, psychology, humanities, music, anthropology, communication, theater, women and gender studies, LGBTQ+ studies, political science, and early childhood education.

MP. Mathematics Proficiency

Courses fulfilling this graduation requirement teach mathematics at or above the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra. The equivalence of mathematics coursework, and the method of demonstrating comparable competency in mathematics is determined by the college/district.