

THE CAL POLY POMONA GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Area Distribution Document

PREAMBLE

The Cal Poly Pomona (CPP) General Education (GE) requirements have been designed to complement the major program and electives completed by each baccalaureate candidate to ensure that graduates have made noteworthy progress toward becoming broadly educated persons who will function as intelligent, active, and creative members of their community.

The CPP GE program purposefully introduces students to a wide variety of disciplines and teaching modes that may be taught in all modalities. The CPP GE program mission is designed to help students to succeed in their chosen field, adapt to a changing workplace, be engaged citizens in their communities, and become lifelong learners. It provides essential skills and knowledge through a framework that enhances students' understanding of basic disciplines and encourages an appreciation of the complexity of all knowledge.

GE courses provide students with a broad intellectual foundation to enhance their potential for success. GE courses shall reflect the wide array of disciplines available, and departments are encouraged to submit courses for multiple GE areas. In recognition of the complexity of knowledge, these areas are defined with open and inclusive terms to encourage submission of courses that enrich the student learning experience. Departments are required to offer these courses at least once every five years, otherwise they will lose their GE designation.

As directed by EO 1100, the GE Assessment Committee develops a set of broad learning outcomes (SLOs) for the GE Program as a whole "to fit within the framework of the four Essential Learning Outcomes drawn from the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) campaign. As a result, there is not a one-to-one mapping from the outcomes to the GE Areas. Every course must address all of the SLOs assigned to the GE Area for which it is approved. However, approved courses need not cover every element of those SLOs. The GE Assessment Committee also develops an assessment plan as recommended by EO 1100 article 6.2.5 and a periodic program review of the GE program shall be undertaken in a manner comparable to major programs. The GE Committee in collaboration with the GE Assessment Committee shall have the responsibility to ensure that students have sufficient opportunities to achieve each of the learning outcomes in its entirety.

GENERAL EDUCATION UNIT DISTRIBUTION

Beginning fall 2018 all undergraduate students at Cal Poly Pomona must satisfy the general education requirements with a minimum and a maximum of 48 semester units, including 9 units of upper division synthesis courses. Lower division courses only shall be approved for the lower division GE Areas (The 9 upper division units shall be taken within the CSU to fulfill the CSU residency requirement.) EO 1100 2.2.2a says that a grade of C- (minus) or better is required in the "golden four" courses A1, A2, A3 and B4. In 2.2.5a EO 1100 says that a campus may waive one or more of the requirements of Title 5 and that the campus must have a clearly stated policy regarding such waivers. Courses are evaluated by a duly constituted GE Committee (which shall include a student representative) and are approved by the Academic Senate to meet the university general education program requirements. Since general education is under continual review, the framework, guidelines, and coursework approved to meet these requirements may change from one catalog cycle to another. Students who change majors or have a break in status may be subject to new degree requirements. Careful academic advising is essential. According to EO 1100, 2.2.6.1 major courses and campus wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirements. Many degree programs recommend specific GE courses which also meet degree requirements (double counting). Departments must indicate those courses on the curriculum sheet of each program.

Area A Communication and Critical Thinking (9 Semester units); one course each from subareas A1, A2, and A3.

Area B Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning (12 Semester units); one course each from subareas B1, B2, B4, and B5. One lab course from subareas B1 or B2 must be taken to fulfill subarea B3; course in subarea B5 must be an upper-division synthesis course.

Area C Arts and Humanities (12 Semester units); one course each from subareas C1, C2, one additional course from C1 or C2, and C3; course in subarea C3 must be an upper-division synthesis course.

Area D Social Sciences (9+2 Semester units); one course each from subareas D1, D2, ~~and D3 where one course is taken in a particular subarea, and one course from~~ D4; course in subarea D4 must be an upper-division synthesis course.

Area E Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (3 Semester units); one course

Area F Ethnic Studies and Social Justice (3 Semester units); one lower-division course

GUIDELINES FOR GENERAL EDUCATION AREAS

The notations after each subarea are the General Education Learning Outcomes aligned with that subarea.

AREA A– ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION AND CRITICAL THINKING (9 semester units)

Students are required to take a minimum of nine semester units in communication in the English language, to include both oral communication (subarea A1) and written communication (subarea A2), and in critical thinking (subarea Area A3).

A1: Oral Communication (3 semester units) Ia, Ib, Ic, IVa

Students taking a course in fulfillment of subarea A1 will develop knowledge and understanding of the form, content, context, and effectiveness of oral communication. Students will develop proficiency in oral communication in English, examining communication from the rhetorical perspective and practicing reasoning and advocacy, organization, and accuracy. Students will practice the discovery, critical evaluation, and reporting of information, as well as reading and listening effectively. Coursework must include active participation and practice in oral communication in English including exploration, development, understanding, and use of visual communication media and skills.

A2: Written Communication (3 semester units) Ia, Ic, IVa

Students taking a course in fulfillment of subarea A2 will develop knowledge and understanding of the form, content, context, and effectiveness of written communication. Students will develop proficiency in written communication in English, examining communication from the rhetorical perspective and practicing reasoning and advocacy, organization, and accuracy. Students will practice the discovery, critical evaluation, and reporting of information, as well as reading and writing effectively. Coursework must include considerable active participation and practice in written communication in English.

A3: Critical Thinking (3 semester units) Ia, Ic, Id, IVb

In critical thinking courses, students will understand logic and its relation to language; elementary inductive and deductive processes, including an understanding of the formal and informal fallacies of language and thought; and the ability to distinguish matters of fact from issues of judgment or opinion. In A3 courses, students will develop the abilities to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas; to reason inductively and deductively; and to reach well supported factual or judgmental conclusions.

AREA B - SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND QUANTITATIVE REASONING (12 semester units)

Instruction approved for fulfillment of this requirement is intended to develop knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data about living and non-living systems. Students will achieve an understanding and appreciation of scientific principles and the scientific method, as well as the potential limits of scientific endeavors and the value systems and ethics associated with human inquiry.

Students are required to fulfill each subarea B1, B2, B3, B4, and B5, as defined below. A student can satisfy the B3 requirement by either completing a B1 or B2 course with an integrated laboratory component or an independent laboratory course. Students shall complete the lower division requirements in Area B (1, 2, 3, and 4) before taking their upper division B5 course.

B1: Physical Sciences (3 semester units) Ia, Id, Ic, IIa

Courses in this area will allow students to develop knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data about non-living systems. Students will achieve an understanding and appreciation of scientific principles and the scientific method, as well as the potential limits of scientific endeavors and the value systems and ethics associated with human inquiry. This area will also require quantitative and critical reasoning skills. Courses in this area will be investigative and not purely descriptive or historical. Where applicable, scientific contributions from various cultures of the world will be included.

B2: Life Sciences (3 semester units) Ia, Id, Ic, IIa

Courses in this area will allow students to develop knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data about living systems. Students will achieve an understanding and appreciation of scientific principles and the scientific method, as well as the potential limits of scientific endeavors and the value systems and ethics associated with human inquiry. This area will also require quantitative and critical reasoning skills. Courses in this area will be investigative and not purely descriptive or historical. Where applicable, scientific contributions from various cultures of the world will be included.

B3: Laboratory Activity (0 semester unit) Ia, Ib, Id, Ie, IIa

Courses in this area will require the student to reinforce principles learned in either physical sciences or life sciences sub areas. A student can satisfy the B3 requirement by either completing a B1 or B2 course with an integrated laboratory component or an independent laboratory course. Courses in this area also include writing as an integral part of the process of learning and discovery.

B4: Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (3 semester units) Ia, Ie, IIa, IVb

Through courses in subarea B4 students shall demonstrate the abilities to reason quantitatively, practice computational skills, and explain and apply mathematical or quantitative reasoning concepts to solve problems. Courses in this subarea shall include a prerequisite reflective only of skills and knowledge required in the course.

Courses in this subarea will require the student to use basic mathematical skills to develop mathematical reasoning, investigative and problem-solving abilities, including applications from/to real life situations. Students will not only practice computational skills, but will also be able to explain and apply basic mathematical concepts and solve problems using quantitative methods. In addition to traditional mathematics, courses in subarea B4 may include computer science, personal finance, statistics or discipline-based mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, for example.

B5: Science and Technology Synthesis (Upper division, 3 semester units) Ia, Ib, Ic, Id, Ie, IIa, IIc

Courses in this area shall deal both with the relationship between science, technology, and civilization and with the effect science and technology have on culture and human values. Synthesis courses in this area are essentially integrative in nature, incorporating the application and generalization of basic scientific or quantitative knowledge from the foundational courses to real world or practical problems.

Students must complete the lower division GE requirements in Area A (A1, A2, and A3) and Area B (B1, B2, B3, and B4) before enrolling in the upper division B5 course. Courses satisfying the requirements for B5 may have prerequisites in specific disciplines included in Area B (not specific courses) as long as the total number of units required as prerequisites does not exceed the minimum number of units to satisfy the lower division GE requirement (e.g. only the first semester of a sequence can be required).

AREA C - ARTS AND HUMANITIES (12 semester units)

Courses in the traditional humanistic disciplines enable students to develop their intellect, imagination, and sensitivity. Instruction in these subareas will demonstrate the continuity between historical and contemporary life as well as the relationships among the arts, the humanistic disciplines, self and society. Courses will reflect the contributions to knowledge and civilization that have been made by both men and women, and by different cultural groups in the world. In this pursuit, students shall cultivate and refine their affective, cognitive, and physical faculties through studying great works of the human imagination. In their intellectual and subjective considerations, students will develop a better understanding of the interrelationship between themselves, the creative arts and the humanities in a variety of cultures. Students will complete at least are required to take one course from each subarea, C1, C2, and C3; and one additional course (3 units) from subarea C1 or C2. Area C pathway for transfer students will follow the standard EO 1100R policy.

C1: Visual and Performing Arts (3 semester units) Ia, IIb, IVb

Courses will enable students to experience and appreciate visual and performing arts in relation to the realms of creativity, imagination, visualization, and feeling that explore the meaning of what it is to be human. Courses shall include active participation in aesthetic and creative experience. Students will understand how disciplined, individual creativity and visualization could produce objects and models that are obviously useful or practical, and also clarify, intensify, and enlarge the human experience. Courses will provide a sense of the values that inform artistic expression and performance and their interrelationships with human society.

C2: Literature, Modern Languages, Philosophy and Civilization (3 semester units) Ia, Ic, Id, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVb

Literature and modern languages courses in this area will provide students with an appreciation of languages and literature, underscoring both the relationships between culture and language and the significance of literature in the interpretation of culture. Students in literature and foreign languages will better understand the implication of great creative writings and communicative customs and traditions of particular cultures. Instruction in these courses will deepen students' appreciation of enduring works of literature and of the contributions of diverse cultures to our literary and linguistic heritage. Courses in languages other than English shall not focus solely on skills acquisition but also contain a substantial cultural component. This may include literature, among other content.

Philosophy and civilization courses in this area will provide students with an understanding of the values that make a civilized and humane society possible. Courses will enable students to critically examine the philosophical ideas and theories around which different civilizations have been organized and explore the complex developments of those civilizations. In the study of philosophy, students will come to understand and appreciate the principles, methodologies, and thought processes employed in human inquiry. Courses should promote the capacity to make informed and responsible moral choices as well as encouraging a broad historical understanding

C3: Arts and Humanities Synthesis (upper division, 3 semester units) Ia, Ib, Ic, Id, IIb, IIc, IIIa

Courses in this area shall emphasize the humanistic or expressive aspects of culture. Synthesis offerings should provide temporal and cultural context that will illuminate contemporary thought and behavior-global, regional, and local – showing the bonds between the past, present, and future.

Students shall complete the lower division GE requirements in Area A1, A2, A3 and B4 and Area C (C1 and C2), before taking their upper division C3 course. Courses satisfying the requirements for C3 may have prerequisites that are GE approved courses in specific disciplines (not specific courses) as long as the total number of units required as prerequisites does not exceed the minimum number of units to satisfy the lower division GE requirement (e.g. only the first semester of a sequence can be required).

AREA D: SOCIAL SCIENCES (12-9 semester units)

Students will learn from courses in multiple disciplines that human social, political, and economic institutions as well as history and human behavior are inextricably interwoven. Through fulfillment of the Area D requirement, students will develop an understanding of problems and issues from the respective disciplinary perspectives and will examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts. Students will explore the principles, methodologies, value systems, and ethics employed in social scientific inquiry. Courses that emphasize skills development and professional preparation shall not be included in Area D.

Students are required to take one course from each subarea, D1, D2, ~~D3~~, and D4. **Students must take courses with at least three different course prefixes in order to satisfy the GE Area D requirement.** Students who complete the IGE course sequence are exempt from this requirement since the IGE program by its very nature provides the necessary breadth. EO 1100 says in 2.2.6.2 campuses may include the United States History, Constitution, and American Ideals Requirement (Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 40404) in general education. This statute is met at Cal Poly Pomona by courses that satisfy these requirements as outlined in Executive Order 1061 and divided into D1 and D2 as follows:

D1: U. S. History and American Ideals (3 semester units) Ia, Ib, Ic, IIb, IIc, IIIa

The GE Subarea provides partial fulfillment of the United States History, Constitution, and American Ideals Requirement (Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 40404,) outlined in Executive Order 1061, Paragraph I, A as follows:

Any course or examination which addresses the historical development of American institutions and ideals must include all of the subject matter elements identified in the following subparagraphs of this paragraph. Nothing contained herein is intended to prescribe the total content or structure of any course.

- 1. Significant events covering a minimum time span of approximately one hundred years occurring in the entire area now included in the United States of America, including the relationships of regions within that area and with external regions and powers as appropriate to the understanding of those events within the United States during the period under study.*
- 2. The role of major ethnic and social groups in such events and the contexts in which the events have occurred.*
- 3. The events presented within a framework which illustrates the continuity of the American experience and its derivation from other cultures including consideration of three or more of the following: politics, economics, social movements, and geography.*

D2: US Constitution and California Government (3 semester units) Ia, Ib, Ic, IIc, IIIb, IVc

The GE Subarea provides partial fulfillment of the United States History, Constitution, and American Ideals Requirement (Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 40404) as outlined in Executive Order 1061, Paragraph I, B as follows:

Any course or examination which addresses the Constitution of the United States, the operation of representative democratic government under that Constitution, and the process of California State and local government must address all of the subject matter elements identified in the following subparagraph of this paragraph. Nothing

contained herein is intended to prescribe the total content or structure of any course.

1. The political philosophies of the framers of the Constitution and the nature and operation of United States political institutions and processes under that Constitution as amended and interpreted.
2. The rights and obligations of citizens in the political system established under the Constitution.
3. The Constitution of the State of California within the framework of evolution of Federal- State relations and the nature and processes of State and local government under that Constitution. Contemporary relationships of State and local government with the Federal government, the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of cooperative processes under the constitutions of both the State and nation, and the political processes involved.

~~D3: The Social Sciences: Principles, Methodologies, Value Systems, and Ethics (3 semester units) Ia, Ic, He, IIIa, IIIb, IVa~~

~~Courses in Subarea D3 will integrate critical thinking and analysis. Students will be able to generalize, draw comparisons, detect logical fallacies, and learn that human social, political, and economic institutions and behavior are inextricably interwoven. While the subject matter of each course will emphasize a particular discipline and content, each course should also demonstrate the interrelatedness of these subareas. Therefore, these courses shall include substantial multi-disciplinary coverage of issues so students can connect sometimes fragmented information and draw meaningful conclusions. Problems and issues in these sections should be examined in contemporary as well as historical contexts, and include significant global and cross-cultural perspectives.~~

D4: Social Science Synthesis (upper division, 3 semester units): Ia, Ib, Ic, Id, IId, IIIa, IIIb

Courses in this area shall focus on either a deeper or broader understanding of a set of concepts and their application in the solution of a variety of specific social problems. Courses shall take a more integrative approach and examine the historical development and cross-cultural distribution of patterns of social behavior as well as different theories and approaches in the field.

Students shall complete the lower division GE requirements in A1, A2, A3 and B4 and Area D (D1 ~~and~~; D2, ~~and~~ D3), before taking their upper division D4 course. Courses satisfying the requirements for D4 may have prerequisites that are GE approved courses in specific disciplines (not specific courses) as long as the total number of units required as prerequisites does not exceed the minimum number of units to satisfy the lower division GE requirement (e.g. only the first semester of a sequence can be required).

AREA E: LIFELONG LEARNING AND SELF DEVELOPMENT (3 semester units) Ia, IVa, IVb, IVc

The content of courses to fulfill Area E is designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings. Student learning in this area shall include selective consideration of content such as human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, information literacy and student success strategies, social relationships and relationships with the environment, as well as implications of death and dying and avenues for lifelong learning. Physical activity may be included, provided that it is an integral part of the study elements described herein. Courses in this area, according to EO 1100, shall be lower division only.

AREA F: ETHNIC STUDIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (3 semester units) Ia, Ic, IIc, IIIa, IIIb, IVa

The content of courses to fulfill Area F is study designed to understand ethnic studies and social justice. Ethnic Studies are an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans¹. Courses in this area shall be lower division only. Area F courses must address the following five core competencies:

- analyze and articulate concepts of ethnic studies, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, racialization, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization and anti-racism.
- apply theory to describe critical events in the histories, cultures, and intellectual traditions, with special focus on the lived-experiences and social struggles of one or more of the following four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Latina/o Americans, and/or Asian Americans, and emphasizing agency and group-affirmation.
- critically discuss the intersection of race and ethnicity with other forms of difference affected by hierarchy and oppression, such as class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, and/or age.
- describe how struggle, resistance, social justice, solidarity, and liberation as experienced by communities of color are relevant to current issues.
- demonstrate active engagement with anti-racist issues, practices and movements to build a diverse, just, and

¹ Assembly Bill 1460 Section 1.b

[equitable society beyond the classroom.](#)

GUIDELINES FOR GE UPPER DIVISION SYNTHESIS COURSES

The major focus of a synthesis course is to integrate and focus fundamental concepts and issues. Each course in this category shall:

- include readings from original primary/historical sources, as opposed to only secondary sources.
- promote original and critical thinking in writing and/or discussion.
- focus attention on understanding the interrelationships among the disciplines and their applications.
- examine ideas and issues covered in this area in deeper and/or broader more integrative ways.
- encourage synthetic-creative thinking in order to identify problems, understand broader implications and construct original ideas.
- identify and evaluate assumptions and limitations of ideas and models.
- develop written and oral communication skills appropriate for an upper division course (completion of courses in Area A: Subareas A1, A2, & A3 is required.)
- provide student work for assessment of the student's understanding of the required educational objectives in this subarea or in this course.

B5: Science and Technology Synthesis

The expanded course outline for courses proposed for this area must clearly indicate an integration of themes and issues within scientific inquiry, quantitative reasoning, and/or technology.

C3: Arts and Humanities Synthesis

The expanded course outline for courses proposed for this area must clearly indicate an integration of themes and issues within Philosophy, Fine Arts, Language, Performing Arts, History and Literature.

D4: Social Science Synthesis

The expanded course outline for courses proposed for this area must clearly indicate an integration of themes and issues within the social sciences.

Interdisciplinary Synthesis Courses

An interdisciplinary synthesis course integrates two or more of the subareas B, C, and D. Prior to taking one of these courses, students must complete all lower-division courses in Area A and at least two subareas from the areas being integrated by an interdisciplinary synthesis course.

Each interdisciplinary synthesis course can be used to satisfy the requirement in any one of the areas integrated. For example, a B5/D4 course satisfies either B5 or D4 (not both areas). Students must fulfill all three upper division synthesis areas (Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning, the Arts and Humanities, and the Social Sciences).

GENERAL EDUCATION MEANINGFUL WRITING COMPONENT

All General Education requirements must include a meaningful writing component as defined by the Academic Senate in 2006:

Courses with a meaningful writing component must make use of written work to help students reflect upon ideas, analyze concepts, and explore relationships of concepts to one another. The written work must help students deepen their understanding of particular fields, enabling them to create meaning out of raw data and helping them express that meaning intelligibly to others. Written assignments must be structured to help students achieve specific course outcomes, and the students must receive feedback on their written work during – not solely at the end – of the [semester] of instruction.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GENERAL EDUCATION

The Interdisciplinary General Education (IGE) program provides an integrative-thematic approach to the Humanities and Social Science components of GE in areas A, C, D and E.

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: CPP AMERICAN CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

The American Cultural Perspectives is a graduation requirement, not a general education requirement. Courses satisfying this additional graduation requirement shall be indicated as R1 in the catalog. This requirement will not constitute an additional unit load on the degree requirements of a student in any program. The courses that satisfy this requirement may be part of a student's GE program, major, or minor, or may be taken as electives. Senate Resolution AS-887-934/GE gives the GE Committee the responsibility to evaluate all courses (GE and Non-GE) submitted to satisfy this requirement.

To satisfy this requirement, a student must take at least one three-unit course that satisfies all of the following criteria:
Introduce theoretical perspectives and non-western/non-traditional approaches for studying gender, ethnicity, and class;
Include the study of at least one other marker of social difference, such as sexual orientation, religious affiliation, national origin, etc.;

Cover at least two of the following socio-cultural groups: African Americans, Native Americans, Chicano/Latino Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islands Americans, Middle Eastern Americans, or European/White ethnic Americans;
Address intra-cultural differences as well as inter-cultural commonalities. Differences may be examined by focusing on diverse cultural practices, environmental ethics, political histories, religious beliefs, or means of artistic expression.