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5 **GENERAL EDUCATION POLICY - Amended**

6 [This policy supersedes PS 00-00, which was compiled from and supersedes the the

7 following policy statements: 71-21, 71-23, 72-03, 72-15, 73-05,

8 73-09, 75-02, 76-04, 77-29, 78-23, 79-16, 79-20, 79-28, 80-06,

9 80-06 supplements #1 (1983), #2 (1987), and #3 (1987), 81-11,

10 81-11 supplement #1 (1982), 81-11 amended (1985), 81-11 amended (1988),

11 83-04, 83-04 supplements #1 (1985) and #2 (1987), 87-01, 91-00,

12 91-00 (Rev.) (1994), 96-00, and 98-00]

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15 The amendment (6.2) to this policy was recommended by the Academic Senate on May 15, 2008 and

16 approved by the President on June 13, 2008.

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18 This policy was recommended by the Academic Senate on November 15, 2007 and approved

19 by the President on November 27, 2007.

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21 **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 22 1.1. The components of an undergraduate education include the major, in which the student acquires depth of
- 23 knowledge, electives that allow a student to explore personal or career-related interests, and General Education
- 24 (GE). General Education allows students to develop competency in academic skills that are essential to all
- 25 academic majors. In addition, General Education offers students broad knowledge beyond the focus of the major, as
- 26 well as exposure to the rich diversity of the human experience. General Education should foster habits of mind that
- 27 lead to lifelong learning and prepare graduates for full and productive lives.
- 28 1.2. The General Education program at CSULB sequentially introduces students to the mastery of academic skills along
- 29 with a pattern of course work that will provide graduates with an understanding of self, the physical world, the
- 30 development and functioning of human society, and its cultural and artistic endeavors, as well as an understanding
- 31 of the methodologies, value systems, and thought processes employed in human inquiries. It involves three stages:
- 32 Foundation, Explorations, and Capstone. Students who begin their college careers at CSULB will complete all three
- 33 stages, while transfer students who enter the university with a certified General Education transfer program will be
- 34 expected to complete the final (Capstone) stage only.
- 35 1.3. General Education breadth requirements are specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Article 40405, and
- 36 in Executive Order 595.
- 37 1.4. Each California State University, Long Beach baccalaureate graduate shall have completed a minimum of 48
- 38 semester units of GE courses distributed as described in section 5, below. The GE program includes three (3) units
- 39 of approved course work in U.S. history and three (3) units of approved course work in U.S. Constitution and
- 40 American ideals required by Section 40404 of Title 5 and EO 405 (see categories D.1.a. and D.1.b., below).
- 41 1.5. In addition to periodic review of courses and program assessment, several other areas are important to the health
- 42 of the General Education program. These areas include the following:
- 43 • faculty development and curricular innovation and improvement, including programs that offer incentives for
 - 44 faculty involvement in General Education
 - 45 • support for programs designed to create learning communities
 - 46 • provision of adequate numbers of course sections at times that meet student needs and in patterns that permit
 - 47 the formation of learning communities
 - 48 • collaboration across academic units to create pathways and to offer courses in sequences and at times that
 - 49 facilitate their inclusion in pathways
 - 50 • establishment of program enforcement mechanisms that help rather than hinder student progress through the
 - 51 program
 - 52 • communication with feeder community colleges regarding the CSULB GE program

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2. THE ESSENTIAL GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ARE:

- 2.1 Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
 - Achieved through study in the Sciences and Mathematics, Social Sciences, Humanities, Histories, Languages, and the Arts
- 2.2 Intellectual and Practical Skills, including
 - Written Communication
 - Oral Communication
 - Critical Thinking
 - Quantitative Reasoning
 - Information Literacy and Technology Literacy
 - Teamwork
 - Creativity, Inquiry, and Discovery
- 2.3 Personal and Civic Responsibility, including
 - Global Competencies
 - Intercultural Competence (cultural values/traditions-U.S.)
 - Ethical Reasoning and Social Responsibility
 - Self-Understanding
 - Foundation and Skills for Lifelong Learning
- 2.4 Integrative Learning, including
 - Synthesis and Interdisciplinary Methods of Inquiry

3. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

- 3.1. The General Education curriculum is organized as three sequential phases. The first is the Foundation, a group of courses designed to provide fundamental learning skills. The second is Explorations, courses distributed across the curriculum that are intended to provide an opportunity to explore the various way of acquiring and examining knowledge while continuing to develop learning skills. The third is the Capstone, designed to integrate knowledge and skills developed earlier in the curriculum.
- 3.2. In completing the Foundation, Explorations, and Capstone phases of the General Education program, all students must complete a distribution pattern described in section 4, below.
- 3.3. Within the Explorations and Capstone courses of the General Education program, all students must take one 3-unit course of instruction that focuses on instructive examples of human diversity in the United States (Human Diversity in the U.S. courses). All students must also take one three (3) unit course of instruction that focuses on global issues or world societies and cultures (Global Issues courses).
- 3.4. At least nine (9) units of the General Education program must be approved upper-division Capstone courses taken after the student achieves upper-division standing (completion of 60 semester units) and must normally be completed at California State University, Long Beach (see special requirements).
- 3.5. Foundation
 - 3.5.1. The first-year program at CSULB should pay 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 the course of study at CSULB, 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 literacy skills, and basic technology skills.
 - 3.5.2. All students are assessed at entry into the university for readiness for baccalaureate-level work in English composition and mathematics. The first priority for any student who is not prepared for baccalaureate-level work is to become fully prepared for college. Accordingly, students who have not demonstrated readiness for baccalaureate-level English or mathematics must complete the appropriate pre-baccalaureate courses within the first- year after admission to CSULB. A student who is required to take either pre-baccalaureate mathematics or

- 103 pre-baccalaureate composition may register for other 100-level Foundation or other General Education classes
104 only if those courses do not have pre- or co-requisites in the area of deficit.
- 105 3.5.3. The following courses make up the Foundation curriculum:
- 106 • one three (3) unit course in Written Communication in English
 - 107 • one three (3) unit course in Oral Communication in English
 - 108 • one three (3) unit course in Critical Thinking
 - 109 • one three (3) unit course in Mathematics
- 110 (Detailed descriptions of these categories are found in section 7, below.)
- 111 3.5.4. These courses should emphasize foundational learning skills.
- 112 3.5.5. The above courses must all be completed with a grade of at least "C".
- 113 3.5.6. The Foundation curriculum must be completed by the time the student has completed 36 units of
114 baccalaureate-level work at CSULB.
- 115 3.5.7. Courses in the Foundation curriculum will be numbered from 100 to 199. All other General Education
116 courses must have pre- or co-requisites from the Foundation curriculum, and all General Education courses
117 numbered 300 or higher must have the entire Foundation curriculum as prerequisites. A Foundation course may
118 have a pre- or co-requisite of another Foundation class, if educationally justified.
- 119 3.6. Explorations
- 120 3.6.1. After an early focus on fundamental learning and academic skills, students will have an opportunity to
121 explore human knowledge in many disciplines. The Explorations stage encompasses all areas outside the
122 Foundation curriculum, as described under "Distribution." It excludes the final nine (9) units of General
123 Education, described under "Capstone."
- 124 3.6.2. General Education courses numbered from 100 through 199 may be appropriately taken at the same
125 time as courses in the Foundation curriculum; however, the General Education Governing Committee will
126 establish expectations for such courses that will acknowledge the nature of the student audience with at least
127 some focus on essential learning skills. Courses that demonstrably integrate skills and content or content-
128 focused courses that are linked to skills courses are especially suitable for this level.
- 129 3.6.3. Although the primary purpose of Explorations is the development of breadth of knowledge, it is
130 expected that all courses will offer opportunities for continued development of foundational skills. Reading,
131 writing, oral discussion and presentation, problem solving, quantitative reasoning, and critically and analytically
132 based research are central to the learning of content. For this reason, all courses outside the Foundation must
133 have pre- or co-requisites from the Foundation, and all courses numbered 300 or higher must have the entire
134 Foundation curriculum as prerequisites.
- 135 3.6.4. In addition, as students progress through their Explorations, they will be expected to develop additional
136 skills and attributes, including ethical reasoning, analytical reading, creativity, respect for difference, awareness
137 of other cultures, questioning of stereotypes, the values of citizenship, negotiating skills, and other attributes of
138 use in a diverse society. Courses at this level will be evaluated for their attention to one or more of these areas
139 and to Foundational skills, as well as content.
- 140 3.7. Capstone
- 141 3.7.1. The final nine (9) General Education units form the Capstone. All students, including transfer students who
142 have completed a certified lower-division General Education program, must complete nine (9) units of Capstone
143 courses.
- 144 3.7.2. The purpose of the Capstone is to bring the strands of the General Education experience into focus, to
145 reinforce knowledge and skills acquired from many areas, and to incorporate depth in the form of more
146 sophisticated tools and analysis, if not necessarily in terms of content knowledge. For transfer students, the
147 Capstone may offer an opportunity to connect to the campus in a learning community outside of the major
148 department.
- 149 3.7.3. Capstone General Education courses shall be upper-division. These courses will have as prerequisites the
150 entire Foundation curriculum along with one or more Explorations courses and upper-division standing. All
151 courses at this level must demonstrably develop advanced college skills, including writing, synthesis and
152 application of knowledge, analysis, critique, and research.

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154 **4. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- 155 4.1. Only courses on the General Education Master Course List at the time the student takes the course shall count for
156 General Education.
- 157 4.2. To ensure that every course in the General Education program contributes to student achievement of the goals of
158 the entire program, all course syllabi for approved General Education courses must include information on the
159 expected GE learning outcomes to be addressed in the course. It is not expected that every GE course will address
160 every outcome; faculty are strongly encouraged to tailor specific course learning outcomes to a subset of the GE
161 learning outcomes and to explain how those will be addressed in the particular course.
- 162 4.3. Because the program is intended to provide breadth, no more than ten (10) units of General Education courses in
163 the student's major department may be used to satisfy the GE requirements. General Education courses must be on
164 the approved list at the time the student takes the course. "Courses in the major department" include all courses
165 housed in the department offering the major, regardless of prefix. (For example, courses in French and in Italian are
166 in the same department.)
- 167 4.4. In some cases, two previously separate disciplines offering separate programs have been placed within a single
168 department for administrative purposes (for example, Comparative World Literature and Classics). Such disciplines
169 may request to be considered as separate departments for purposes of this restriction. The request must be approved
170 by the Curriculum and Educational Policies Council.
- 171 4.5. There is no limit to the number of units outside the major department that may be used to satisfy both the
172 requirements for the major and the requirements for General Education.
- 173 4.6. Where appropriate exams exist, Foundation and Explorations requirements may be met by external examinations,
174 such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams.
- 175 4.7. A cross-categorized course may be counted (at the student's option) in any one of the approved categories A-E,
176 but not in more than one.
- 177 4.8. No course may be designated as meeting both the Global Issues and Human Diversity in the U.S. requirements.
- 178 4.9. Because General Education is a breadth requirement, students will normally have no prior experience in the
179 discipline beyond an introductory course. Therefore, upper-division courses designed primarily for students majoring
180 in the discipline will not be acceptable for the General Education program. Any course that has prerequisites that are
181 not on the General Education Master Course List will need justification as to why such courses must be prerequisites
182 and why such prerequisites will not unduly restrict enrollment.
- 183 4.10. No course identified in the catalog as available for credit in a graduate program will be permitted for General
184 Education credit. Double-numbered courses (400 and 500 level) may not be used for General Education credit.
- 185 4.11. General Education courses may be offered in various formats and instructional modes and in various time frames.
186 Departments have the burden of demonstrating that the General Education objectives and the expectations of
187 student performance are maintained in all formats in which the course is taught.
- 188 4.12. Transfer courses may be used to meet the Capstone, Global Issues, and Human Diversity in the U.S.
189 requirements only under the conditions shown in sections 8, 9, and 10.

190 **5. DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT**

- 191 Students must complete a minimum of 48 units of approved General Education courses, distributed as follows:
192 Category A. -- At least nine (9) units in Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking
193 Category B. -- At least nine (9) units in Natural Sciences and Mathematics
194 Category C. -- At least nine (9) units in the Arts and Humanities
195 Category D. -- At least twelve (12) units in Citizenship and Social and Behavioral Sciences and History
196 Category E. -- At least three (3) units in Self-Integration
197 Additional courses chosen from the list of approved General Education courses in Categories B, C, and D to bring the
198 total to a minimum of 48 units.
- 199 5.1. Category A -- Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking (all included in the Foundation) -- At
200 least nine (9) units to include:
- 201 5.1.1. Category A.1. -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in Written Communication in English
202 5.1.2. Category A.2. -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in Oral Communication in English or
203 a combination of oral and written communication in English.
204 5.1.3. Category A.3. -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in Critical Thinking.
- 205 5.2. Category B -- Natural Sciences and Mathematics -- At least nine (9) units to include

- 206 5.2.1. Category B.1. -- At least six (6) units of Natural Sciences to include
- 207 5.2.1.1. Category B.1.a. -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in the Biological Sciences, which
- 208 must include a laboratory experience
- 209 5.2.1.2. Category B.1.b. -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in the Physical Sciences, which
- 210 must include a laboratory experience
- 211 5.2.2. Category B.2. -- At least three (3) units of study chosen from approved courses in Mathematics (included in
- 212 the Foundation)
- 213 5.3. Category C. -- the Arts and Humanities -- At least nine (9) units to include:
- 214 5.3.1. Category C.1. -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in the Arts
- 215 5.3.2. Category C.2. -- At least six (6) units from 2 areas chosen from approved courses in the Humanities chosen
- 216 from:
- 217 5.3.2.1. Category C.2.a. -- Literature
- 218 5.3.2.2. Category C.2.b. -- Philosophy, and
- 219 5.3.2.3. Category C.2.c. -- Foreign Languages
- 220 5.4. Category D -- Citizenship and Social and Behavioral Sciences and History -- At least 12 units to include
- 221 5.4.1. Category D.1. -- At least six (6) units chosen from approved courses in U.S. Citizenship
- 222 5.4.1.1. Category D.1.a. -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in U.S. History
- 223 5.4.1.2. Category D.1.b. -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in the Constitution and
- 224 American Ideals
- 225 5.4.2. Category D.2. -- At least six (6) units, from two different disciplines, chosen from approved courses in the
- 226 Social and Behavioral Sciences and History
- 227 5.5. Category E -- At least three (3) units chosen from approved courses in Self-Integration
- 228 5.6. Additional courses to reach the minimum total of 48 units may be chosen from any courses approved for General
- 229 Education credit in categories B, C, and D. This includes both courses that fit the specific designations above and
- 230 other approved courses, designated as B.3 or C.3, that meet the general headings of category B or C but do not fit
- 231 one of the specific required categories.
- 232 5.7. Special requirements -- All students, including all transfer students, must complete:
- 233 5.7.1. at least three (3) units from the above categories devoted to the study of Human Diversity in the United
- 234 States, and
- 235 5.7.2. at least three (3) units from the above categories devoted to the study of Global Issues.
- 236 5.8. Capstone Requirements -- All students, including all transfer students, must complete at least nine (9) units of
- 237 Capstone courses. Capstone courses may be used to meet the specific category requirements and the Global
- 238 Issues and Human Diversity in the U.S. requirements, if those have not been met by other courses.
- 239 5.8.1. Students are expected to complete the Capstone requirement at CSULB. An exception will be made for
- 240 students who transfer from another CSU campus after completing some of the upper-division GE requirement at
- 241 that campus. To be accepted toward the Capstone requirement at CSULB, the transfer course must be
- 242 approved for upper division general education credit at the campus offering the course. Other courses may be
- 243 used, on an individual basis, to meet the requirement if they are approved for General Education at the campus
- 244 offering the course and if the purpose of the course meets the criteria for a CSULB Capstone course.
- 245 5.8.2. Students who transfer from baccalaureate institutions other than the CSU after completing upper-division
- 246 General Education courses may petition to have one or more such courses accepted toward the Capstone
- 247 requirement. Such petitions will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria above.

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249 **6. GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNING AND TRANSFER STUDENTS**

- 250 6.1. Students who have not maintained continuous attendance status shall be subject to the General Education
- 251 requirements in effect at the time of their reentry to the university, with the following exceptions.
- 252 6.1.1. Previous CSULB students who were under earlier General Education requirements and who before breaking
- 253 continuous attendance needed no more than three additional courses to complete the entire General Education
- 254 requirement shall be allowed to complete the General Education requirement in effect at the time of the previous
- 255 attendance. However, all students must complete at least 9 units of upper division General Education courses, of
- 256 which a minimum of six (6) units must be Capstone courses.
- 257 6.1.2. Previous CSULB students who were under the earlier General Education requirements and who before
- 258 breaking continuous attendance completed one or more upper-division GE courses shall be required to complete

259 additional Capstone courses as needed to complete the total of 9 upper-division units. At least two of the
260 courses in the overall program must be Capstone courses.

261 6.2. Transfer students who enter CSULB with full GE certification from a California Community College must complete
262 both the Human Diversity in the U.S. and the Global Issues requirements if these requirements were not met through
263 transfer, but these students need not complete any other GE courses except the Capstone, which cannot be met
264 through transfer from a community college. Transfer students who enter CSULB without full GE certification or
265 subject-area (partial) certification from a California Community College must either complete the CSULB GE
266 requirements, or complete and obtain a GE certification from a California Community College which will be honored
267 as meeting CSULB's lower division GE requirements.

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269 **7. GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE CONTENT CRITERIA** (sections enclosed with quotation marks are
270 quoted from EO 595)

271 7.1. All courses in the General Education program must demonstrably encourage development of academic skills. At
272 the Foundation stage, these skills will focus on written and oral communication, critical thinking and problem
273 solving, or mathematics and quantitative reasoning.

274 7.2. Foundation Courses -- Because of the nature of the courses that constitute the Foundation, it is expected that
275 classes will be organized either as small groups or as large lectures with small group discussions, activities, or
276 workshops. Although no explicit class size limit will be set for other General Education classes targeted to first-
277 year students, the GEGC will consider whether the proposed modes of instruction are consistent with the learning
278 objectives of the course and the level.

279 7.3. Courses beyond the Foundation level must continue to enhance the Foundation skills, as well as to build
280 additional skills as indicated in the descriptions of the specific levels and categories. Instruction approved to fulfill
281 the General Education requirements "should recognize the contributions to knowledge and civilization that have
282 been made by members of various cultural groups and by both men and women." Wherever appropriate, the
283 content of courses should include examples of the relationship of human and cultural diversity to the subject
284 matter.

285 7.4. General Education courses should include, as an integral component of teaching, sensitivity to different points of
286 view and diverse learning methods.

287 7.5. University 100 (1 unit): Introduction to the University. This course is a graduation requirement for students
288 entering as lower-division students and is not considered a General Education requirement. It shall be developed
289 collaboratively by the faculty teaching it and shall be pedagogically coordinated with the skills and content of the
290 first-year curriculum. The course shall introduce students to the history of universities (including the history,
291 mission, and character of CSULB) and current issues in higher education. It shall introduce students to the use of
292 academic research libraries and introduce them to the skills essential for success in an academic environment.

293 7.6. Category A: Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking

294 7.6.1. Category A.1., Written Communication in English, and A.2., Oral Communication in English criteria

295 "Instruction approved for fulfillment of the requirement in communication is to be designed to emphasize the
296 content of communication as well as the form and should provide an understanding of the psychological basis
297 and the social significance of communication, including how communication operates in various situations.
298 Applicable course(s) should view communication as the process of human symbolic interaction focusing on the
299 communicative process from the rhetorical perspective: reasoning and advocacy, organization, accuracy; the
300 discovery, critical evaluation and reporting of information; reading and listening effectively as well as speaking
301 and writing. This must include active participation and practice in written communication and oral
302 communication."

303 7.6.2. Category A.3., Critical Thinking criteria "Instruction in critical thinking is to be designed to achieve an
304 understanding of the relationship of language to logic, which should lead to the ability to analyze, criticize,
305 and advocate ideas; to reason inductively and deductively; and to reach factual or judgmental conclusions
306 based on sound inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief. The minimal
307 competence to be expected at the successful conclusion of instruction in critical thinking should be the
308 demonstration of skills in elementary inductive and deductive processes, including an understanding of the
309 formal and informal fallacies of language and thought, and the ability to distinguish matters of fact from
310 issues of judgment or opinion."

311 7.7. Category B: Natural Sciences and Mathematics

312 7.7.1. Category B.1., Natural Sciences criteria "Instruction approved for the fulfillment of this requirement is
313 intended to impart knowledge of the facts and principles which form the foundations of living and non-living

314 systems. Such studies should promote understanding and appreciation of the methodologies of science as
315 investigative tools, the limitations of scientific endeavors: namely, what is the evidence and how was it
316 derived? In addition, particular attention should be given to the influence which the acquisition of scientific
317 knowledge has had on the development of the world's civilizations, not only as expressed in the past but also
318 in present times." Courses in this category may include lecture/laboratory courses or combinations of a
319 lecture course and a separate but related laboratory course.

320 7.7.2. Category B.2., Mathematics criteria

321 "In specifying inquiry into mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning and their application, the intention is
322 not to imply merely basic computational skills, but to encourage as well the understanding of basic mathematical
323 concepts."

324 7.7.3. Category B.3., Additional Natural Sciences and Mathematics criteria. All courses in B.1. and B.2. are also in
325 B.3. This category includes, in addition, courses that fit the general criteria for category B but do not meet
326 other criteria for completion of the General Education program, mainly courses that do not qualify for B.1
327 because they do not include a laboratory.

328 7.8. Category C: Humanities and the Arts

329 7.8.1. Category C.1., Arts, C.2.a., Literature, and C.2.b., Philosophy criteria

330 "Instruction approved for the fulfillment of this requirement should cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility, and
331 sensitivity. It is meant in part to encourage students to respond subjectively as well as objectively to experience
332 and to develop a sense of the integrity of emotional and intellectual response. Students should be motivated to
333 cultivate and refine their affective as well as cognitive and physical faculties through studying great works of the
334 human imagination, which could include active participation in individual esthetic, creative experience. Equally
335 important is the intellectual examination of the subjective response, thereby increasing awareness and
336 appreciation in the traditional humanistic disciplines such as art, dance, drama, literature, and music." The arts
337 disciplines of film and design are also included in this category. Therefore, courses used to meet this category
338 must address the cultural and aesthetic context of the experience. "The requirement should result in the students'
339 better understanding of the interrelationship between the creative arts, the humanities and self. Studies in these
340 areas should include exposure to both Western cultures and non-Western cultures."

341 7.8.2. Category C.2.c., Foreign Languages criteria

342 "Foreign language courses may be included in this requirement because of their implications for cultures both in
343 their linguistic structures and in their use in literature; but foreign language courses which are approved to meet a
344 portion of this requirement are to contain a cultural component and not be solely skill acquisition courses. " 7.8.3.
345 Category C.3., Additional Humanities and the Arts criteria All courses in C.1. and C.2. are also in C.3. Additional
346 courses in this category must meet the general humanities criteria above but need not also fit into one of the
347 specific subcategories.

348 7.9. Category D: Citizenship and Social and Behavioral Sciences and History

349 7.9.1. Category D.1.a., U.S. History criteria The purpose of this requirement is to foster in students an awareness
350 of the United States experience and of the people, institutions, circumstances, and events in United States
351 history that have shaped contemporary conditions, as provided for in Title 5, Article 40404. The requirement
352 is intended to enable students to function as responsible and constructive citizens. Courses meeting this
353 requirement should, at a minimum, include the following:

- 354 a. an analysis of the significant events occurring within the entire territory of the United States, including the
355 relationships among regions within that area and relationships with external regions and powers, as
356 appropriate
- 357 b. a chronological span of not less than 100 years
- 358 c. an examination of the nature and extent of the continuity of the United States experience within itself and
359 with the cultures from which it is derived
- 360 d. consideration of the relationship of such factors as geography, religion, natural resources, economics,
361 cultural diversity, and politics to the development of the nation during the time period covered
- 362 e. coverage of the role of national, economic, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic groups in the events
363 described
- 364 f. introduction to the groups and individual leaders who have been instrumental in the development of the
365 United States
- 366 g. attention to the phenomenon of conflict (or change) as a variable in the United States national experience

367 7.9.2. Category D.1.b., Constitution and American Ideals criteria The purpose of this requirement is to give
368 students a comprehensive understanding of and appreciation for American political institutions and
369 processes established by the United States Constitution and the California state constitutions, as provided

- 370 for in Title 5, Article 40404. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills essential to effective political
371 participation and citizenship. All courses meeting this requirement must at a minimum include the following:
- 372 a. the political philosophy of the framers of the Constitution and the nature and operation of United States
373 political institutions and processes that operate under the Constitution as amended and interpreted
 - 374 b. the rights and obligations of citizens in the political system established under that Constitution
 - 375 c. principles and practices of political organization, including political parties, interest groups, legislative
376 politics, and campaign practices
 - 377 d. analysis of the American citizenry, including political culture and voting behavior
 - 378 e. constitutionally and legislatively established administrative and regulatory institutions including analysis of
379 bureaucracies and their impact on citizens at the national, state, and local levels
 - 380 f. the constitution of the state of California within a framework of the historical evolution of the state and the
381 nature of the processes of state and local government under that constitution
 - 382 g. the nature of federalism, including the relationship of federal to state and local practices, the resolution of
383 jurisdictional conflicts, and the political processes involved

384 7.9.3. Category D.2, Social and Behavioral Sciences and History criteria

385 “Instruction approved for fulfillment of this requirement should reflect the fact that human social, political and
386 economic institutions and behavior are inextricably interwoven. Problems and issues in these areas should be
387 examined in their contemporary as well as historical settings, including both Western and non-Western contexts.”

388 7.10. Category E, Self-Integration criteria

389 “Instruction approved for fulfillment of this requirement should facilitate understanding of the human being as an
390 integrated physiological, social, and psychological organism. Courses developed to meet this requirement are
391 intended to include selective consideration of such matters as human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, health, stress,
392 key relationships of humankind to the social and physical environment, and implications of death and dying. Physical
393 activity could be included, provided that it is an integral part of the study described herein.”

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395 8. CAPSTONE COURSES

396 8.1. General criteria for Capstone courses:

397 8.1.1. All Capstone courses must demonstrably develop advanced college skills, including synthesis and
398 application of knowledge, analysis, critique, and research. Capstone courses are intended to help students
399 integrate knowledge and skills developed earlier in the curriculum, working at a more advanced level than in
400 Explorations courses. Therefore, Capstone courses must require as prerequisites upper-division standing,
401 completion of the entire Foundation, and one or more courses from the Explorations stage. No section of any
402 capstone course should have more than 35 enrolled students.

403 8.1.2. Instructors in all upper-division Capstone courses that carry General Education credit will integrate into the
404 course a substantial writing component. This is usually interpreted to mean at least a total of 5000 words in the
405 various assignments. The writing component either may be integrated throughout the courses or may be a
406 cumulative report or project that has, as part of the report or project, ongoing evaluation and feedback
407 throughout the semester. The writing assignments may be in whatever form the instructor deems appropriate to
408 the subject matter and methodology of the course, but the assignments must be a factor in evaluating student
409 performance.

410 8.1.3. Faculty who teach these courses should refer students with serious writing difficulties to seek writing
411 instruction, tutoring, or other appropriate assistance to improve their writing skills as early as possible. For this
412 reason, there must be early (first one-third of the term) feedback on student writing and further feedback
413 throughout the term, including opportunity for revision where appropriate to the assignment.

414 8.1.4. Faculty may obtain guidance in the choice of writing assignments and information on evaluating writing
415 through workshops and other supportive programs sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs.

416 8.2. Types of and criteria for Capstone courses -- Suitable courses for inclusion at the Capstone level include the 417 following:

418 8.2.1. Advanced Skills courses (no more than 3 units out of 9). These courses require students to apply skills at a
419 level above that of Explorations courses. Examples include, but are not limited to, (a) advanced composition, (b)
420 research and advanced methods, and (c) presentation skills.

421 8.2.2. Service Learning courses (no more than 3 units out of 9). Such courses may include community service
422 internships in social, health, support, school, or environmental programs or courses that include components of
423 university or community service along with other objectives.

424 8.2.3. Interdisciplinary courses that focus on a specific topic through comparative application or synthesis of
425 knowledge using the theory and methodology from two or more disciplines.

426 8.2.3.1. Interdisciplinary courses require students to integrate knowledge from separate disciplines, to
427 employ the perspectives from the differing views of disparate disciplines, and to coordinate the varying
428 intellectual tools and methods of the General Education program. In an Interdisciplinary course, the
429 different special knowledge, methods, and perspectives of two or more academic disciplines are brought
430 together in the exposition or treatment of a particular topic or problem. Such a course exhibits interaction
431 among disciplines in the approach to its subject matter, whether that results in mutual benefit or in
432 stresses between or among disciplines. An Interdisciplinary course may be designed to lead students to
433 integrate knowledge acquired in the previous study of separate disciplines (interdisciplinary), or it may
434 approach one topic, problem, or phenomenon with the various tools and perspectives of different
435 disciplines (multidisciplinary). A discipline is generally considered to be a system of learning or
436 instruction, usually the basis for an academic department or program. When a course that claims to
437 involve a discipline not clearly covered by this definition is proposed, the General Education Governing
438 Committee will decide whether the course meets the intent of the Interdisciplinary course requirement.

439 8.2.3.2. Many courses deal with subject matter at the borderline between traditional disciplines. Faculty
440 members frequently include information from other disciplines. These attributes do not suffice to qualify a
441 course for Interdisciplinary status. Rather, an Interdisciplinary course has as an explicit objective
442 throughout the course the requirement that students develop skills in approaching the topic through
443 comparative application of the approaches and methodologies of different disciplines.

444 8.2.3.3. An Interdisciplinary course may be approved for more than one General Education category or
445 subcategory when the course's disciplinary emphasis and content fall under more than one General
446 Education category, but the student will receive credit in only one.
447

448 **9. GLOBAL ISSUES COURSES**

449 9.1. Students are required to complete at least 3 units of course work from any category devoted to the study of global
450 issues or world societies and cultures. These courses must be designed to introduce students to cultures and places
451 beyond the boundaries of the United States.

452 9.2. To qualify for the Global Issues designation in General Education, the course must either (1) have as its central
453 focus the world as a whole as its field of inquiry, or (2) engage in a sustained and systematic analysis of global
454 processes within the context of one world region (broadly defined) outside the United States that compares how
455 these processes operate differently within and across that region, or (3) engage in a sustained and systematic
456 comparison between at least two major world regions or significantly distinct societies, at least one of which must be
457 outside the United States.

458 **10. HUMAN DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COURSES**

459 10.1. It is the goal of the faculty that courses approved for CSULB General Education foster respect for human diversity
460 in the United States of America (USA). Human Diversity in the USA courses introduce students to the life
461 experiences of people with whom they are less familiar to promote the understanding of diversity and encourage
462 tolerance and acceptance of others.

463 10.2. To recognize the significant influence of diverse populations and cultures within the United States of America and
464 to bring attention to these influences and the nature of these cultures, every student graduating with a baccalaureate
465 degree from CSULB must satisfactorily complete one 3-unit course of instruction that focuses on examples of human
466 diversity in the United States of America (Human Diversity in the USA courses).

467 10.3. Course Criteria - Human Diversity in the USA Courses:

468 10.3.1. A Human Diversity in the USA course must meet the General Education criteria as defined in CSU
469 Executive Order 595 and existing CSULB General Education policies.

470 10.3.2. A Human Diversity in the USA course must present current and course appropriate theoretical
471 understandings of the nature of human diversity in the United States of America. Courses should clearly
472 demonstrate pedagogical and disciplinary approaches to the study of the diversity of human beings.

473 10.3.2.1. A Human Diversity in the USA course must examine the influence of gender, race, and ethnicity
474 and one or more additional markers of social difference in the USA within both the specific field of study
475 and the general society.

476 10.3.2.2. A Human Diversity in the USA course must provide a comparative treatment of nationally significant
477 minority cultures, to include at least two of the following groups: African Americans, Native Americans,
478 Chicana(o)/Latina(o) Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islander Americans, and Middle Eastern
479 Americans. Courses must also include a comparative treatment of the significance of gender.

480 10.3.2.3. A Human Diversity in the USA course must also consider one or more additional markers of social
481 difference, such as special needs, age, class, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, language,
482 religion, and other distinctions that reflect the diversity of the United States of America.
483 10.3.3. Transfer courses may be accepted as meeting the Human Diversity in the USA requirement if they (a) are
484 General Education courses at another CSU campus that meets that campus's cross cultural or multicultural or
485 diversity requirement or (b) are General Education courses specifically formulated to provide examination of
486 diversity issues.

487

488 **11. UNIT REDUCTIONS IN HIGH UNIT MAJORS**

489 To achieve a reduction of required GE units for their students, the chairs of departments (or directors of programs) with
490 high-unit degree majors may request -- and the Curriculum and Educational Policies Council may recommend, with
491 review by the Academic Senate -- a reduction of the required units to a minimum of 45. When a program is approved for
492 this reduction, students in the program must still complete the minimum required units in Categories B, C, and D.

493 **12. PATHWAYS**

494 12.1. A pathway is a suggested sequence of courses that leads the student through the General Education program. A
495 pathway should be envisioned as an advising tool that brings coherence and meaning to General Education
496 requirements by offering students the opportunity to explore particular areas of interest, complement and make
497 connections to a major field of study, or use General Education to learn more about potential majors. Pathways may
498 feature themes consisting of a group of courses connected through content or overarching content. Well-built
499 pathways should offer distinctive General Education experiences that capitalize on the remarkable assets of CSULB
500 (e.g., its diversity, its location on the Pacific Rim, its strength in the arts.) Pathways should also support the creation
501 of learning communities by bringing a group of students following a pathway together over an extended set of
502 experiences.

503 12.2. Students need not choose a pathway to complete General Education requirements and may switch pathways at
504 any time. However, any student who completes all requirements in a published pathway will have completed all
505 university General Education requirements.

506 12.3. The following regulations apply to pathways:

507 12.3.1. Pathways may be developed by individual departments, by colleges, by other academic programs, or by
508 collaborations among departments or academic programs. Broadly based pathways should be encouraged.

509 12.3.2. Pathways shall be identified in the catalog by program.

510 12.3.3. All pathways must meet all distribution requirements, as well as Foundation and Capstone requirements.

511 12.3.4. Departments and colleges are encouraged to collaborate in identifying thematically linked groups of
512 courses in pathways and to schedule such courses so as to facilitate concurrent or sequenced enrollment. Thus,
513 two or more courses from different departments that address aspects of a common theme might be scheduled
514 so that a student could take the grouping in a single semester or in consecutive semesters.

515 12.3.5. Prior to publication, a pathway must be approved by the GEGC and by the CEP Council.

516 12.3.6. The GEGC will review approved pathways every five years.

517 **13. GOVERNANCE OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND REVIEW OF COURSES**

518 13.1. Governance

519 13.1.1. The authority to review and approve courses for inclusion in the General Education Master Course List
520 belongs to the General Education Governing Committee (GEGC), with final authority residing in the Curriculum
521 and Educational Policies Council.

522 13.1.2. Membership and duties of the GEGC shall be specified by the Academic Senate.

523 13.2. Review of courses

524 13.2.1. Departments with courses undergoing review have the burden of proof that the requirements of the
525 distribution area, of the other expectations of the program level (Foundation, Explorations, Capstone), and of the
526 course's contribution to the overall General Education program have been met.

527 13.2.2. Once a course has been approved for General Education credit, it will be reviewed periodically. The
528 standard period between reviews is five years. Any course that undergoes substantial change requires
529 appropriate reevaluation to remain on the list of approved courses. A request for inclusion of a course in an
530 additional General Education category or subcategory or a request for Capstone status for a course already on
531 the list of approved General Education courses requires a review and evaluation of the course for all prior as well
532 as requested categories of General Education. Departments (except for courses that have not yet been offered)

- 533 may be asked to provide anonymous examples of student work as evidence that course expectations are
534 appropriate.
- 535 13.2.3. The Colleges must submit materials for each of their courses on the General Education Master Course List
536 for periodic review and evaluation. Failure to submit a course for by the end of the semester following the
537 semester during which the college received a request will be interpreted as a desire to delete the course from the
538 list of approved courses and will be so honored.
- 539 13.2.4. Inactive courses -- If a course has not been offered for four consecutive semesters, the originating
540 department will be asked to justify why the course should not be immediately dropped from the General
541 Education Master Course List. The GEGC may grant the department a one-year extension; however, if a course
542 has not been offered for six semesters, it will be dropped and will be reinstated only after a full review.
- 543 13.3 Assessment of the General Education Program
- 544 13.3.1 The General Education Program shall be assessed for quality assurance and effectiveness.
- 545 13.3.2 The General Education Master Course List shall serve as the data source for the assessment of the General
546 Education Program.
- 547 13.3.3 Non-compliance with the General Education Program assessment process for quality assurance and
548 effectiveness will result in the discontinuance of the involved course.

549 **14. COURSE LIST APPEAL PROCEDURES**

- 550 14.1. A department (via the college) may appeal a decision regarding placement of a course on the GE Master Course
551 List. The department (via the college) does this by requesting reconsideration and submitting further information
552 about the course to show why the original decision was incorrect.
- 553 14.2. Although the appeal must be written and include all necessary information and arguments, representatives of the
554 department and college may attend the meeting at which the GEGC reviews the appeal to ask and answer
555 questions.
- 556 14.3. If a department discovers that one of its courses is approved for General Education under a specific category and
557 the course is not appropriate, that department should request that the course be deleted from the General Education
558 Master Course List.
- 559 14.4. If after the appeal referred to above a college still disagrees with the judgment of the GEGC, it may appeal to the
560 Curriculum and Educational Policies Council. If this is done, the GEGC will prepare for the council a statement of the
561 reasons for its decision. The college will furnish the members of the council copies of the course justification and the
562 additional materials provided for the committee. All materials shall be distributed to council members prior to the
563 meeting at which the matter is to be considered. Oral presentations may also be made at the Curriculum and
564 Educational Policies Council meeting, if the college wishes.
- 565 14.5. The judgment of the Curriculum and Educational Policies Council on appeals will be final.
- 566 14.6. Disagreements over the implementation of this policy shall be referred to the Curriculum and Educational Policies
567 Council.
- 568 14.7. Except in those instances for which it is provided that the Curriculum and Educational Policies Council has final
569 authority, the actions of the council shall be subject to review by the Academic Senate.

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574 **EFFECTIVE: Fall 2008**