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CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

This policy is intended to establish a common understanding of the requirements for CSU General Education Breadth (GE) and to provide for the certification of courses completed by transfer students at regionally accredited institutions. Reciprocity among CSU campuses for full and subject-area completion of lower-division GE Requirements is also addressed in this policy. This policy is effective for students subject to the fall 2021 and subsequent catalog years.

This document also addresses:

- **Applicability of the policy (Article 1),**
- **Patterns that fulfill General Education requirements (Article 2),**
- **Premises of CSU General Education Breadth (Article 3),**
- **Distribution of General Education Breadth units (Article 4),**
- **Transfer and articulation (Article 5),**
- **Implementation and governance (Article 6).**

Article 1. Applicability

1. Prior to Completion of CSU Lower-Division General Education Breadth Requirements

The requirements, policies and procedures adopted pursuant to this policy are effective for students subject to the fall 2021 and subsequent catalog years who have not previously been enrolled continuously at a campus of the CSU or the California Community Colleges (CCC) and who have not satisfied lower-division general education requirements according to the provisions of Title 5 Section 40405.2 or 40405.3.

2. Subsequent to Completion of Entire CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

Subsequent to completion of CSU GE lower-division and upper-division requirements, a student shall not be required to satisfy additional exclusively general education breadth requirements.

Article 2. Fulfilling CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

1. CSU GE Breadth Patterns

Policies adopted by the Board of Trustees in July 1991 provide three optional patterns for undergraduate students to fulfill CSU GE requirements:

a. CSU General Education Breadth

Fulfillment of CSU GE requirements (Title 5, Section 40405.1), includes lower-division certification by a California Community College or a CSU, and also includes the completion of 9 upper-division semester units (or 12 upper-division quarter units) consisting of a minimum of 3 semester units each (or 4 quarter units) each in Areas B, C and D; or

b. Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)

Completion of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) (Title 5, Section 40405.2), as certified by a CCC, and also includes the completion of 9 upper-division semester units (or 12 upper-division quarter units) consisting of a minimum of 3 semester units (or 4 quarter units) each in Areas B, C and D; or

c. University of California (UC) Campus Lower-Division

Completion of lower-division general education requirements of a University of California campus (Title 5, Section 40405.3), as certified by that campus, and also includes the completion of 9 upper-division semester units (or 12 upper-division quarter units) consisting of a minimum of 3 semester units (or 4 quarter units) each in Areas B, C and D.

2. CSU Systemwide Requirements

1. General Education Requirements

- a. CSU campus GE requirements shall conform to the requirements established in this policy and shall not exceed the requirements for 39 lower-division and 9 upper-division semester-units (or quarter-unit equivalent) in the defined GE Areas, except as described in Article 4, Area B.
- b. A baccalaureate candidate who has not completed either the IGETC or UC-campus pattern specified in Article 2 shall complete the CSU General Education Breadth requirements described in Article 4, Subsections A through F, totaling a minimum of 48 semester units or equivalent quarter units.
- c. Subsequent to a change of major, the student shall not be subject to different or additional GE requirements solely to address CSU GE requirements already satisfied.

2. Minimum Grades

- a. A grade of C- or better is required in each CSU or transfer course in written communication in the English language (A2), oral communication in the English language (A1), critical thinking (A3), and mathematics/quantitative reasoning (B4). (Title 5 Sections 40803, 40804, 40804.1).
- b. Each CSU campus shall establish the minimum grades for satisfactory completion of remaining general education breadth courses, subject to reciprocity requirements specified in Section 5.6 of this EO.

3. Upper-Division Requirement

Nine upper-division semester units (12 upper-division quarter units) are required according to the following distribution:

- Area B (3 semester or 4 quarter units) Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning
- Area C (3 semester or 4 quarter units) Arts and Humanities
- Area D (3 semester or 4 quarter units) Social Sciences

The 9 upper-division GE courses are designed to be taken after upper-division status (completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units) is attained. Students enrolling in upper-division GE courses shall have completed required lower-division GE courses in written communication, oral communication, critical thinking, and mathematics/quantitative reasoning. Campuses shall require no more than 9 upper-division GE semester units (or the quarter equivalent).

4. Residency Requirement

The 9 semester (12 quarter) units of upper-division GE shall be taken within the CSU. In all cases, students shall meet the residency requirements specified in Title 5 Section 40403.

5. Exceptions

Exceptions to the foregoing requirements may be authorized only under the following circumstances:

- a. In the case of an individual student, the campus may grant a partial waiver of one or more of the particular requirements of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 40405.1 to avoid demonstrable hardship. Each campus shall have clearly stated policy regarding such waivers.
- b. In the case of high-unit major degree programs, the chancellor may grant exceptions to one or more requirements for students completing the particular program. Such exception must be approved at the campus level prior to initiating a request to the Chancellor's Office. A full academic justification shall be submitted to the executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, who shall submit his or her recommendation and the campus recommendation (along with all relevant

documents) to the chancellor.

- c. A student who has been admitted to a baccalaureate degree program is exempt from additional GE requirements if:
 1. The student has previously earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association; or
 2. The student has completed equivalent academic preparation, as determined by the appropriate campus authority.
- d. The total number of GE units required shall not be fewer or greater than 48 semester units (or equivalent quarter units) in the Areas and Subareas described in Article 4. An additional 1 semester or 2 quarter units is allowed as described in Article 4, Area B.

6. Double Counting

1. General Education, Major, and Other Requirements

Major courses and campus-wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirement.

2. General Education and US History, Constitution, and American Ideals Statutory Requirement

CSU campuses may permit up to 6 semester units or 8 quarter units taken to meet the United States History, Constitution and American Ideals Requirement (Title 5, Section 40404) to satisfy GE requirements.

Article 3. Premises of CSU General Education Breadth

1. Background

CSU GE requirements have been designed to complement the major program and electives completed by each baccalaureate candidate, to assure that graduates have made noteworthy progress toward becoming truly educated persons.

These requirements are designed to provide the knowledge, skills, experiences, and perspectives that will enable CSU students to expand their capacities to take part in a wide range of human interests and activities; to confront personal, cultural, moral, and social problems that are an inevitable part of human life; and to cultivate both the requisite skills and enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Faculty are encouraged to assist students in making connections among disciplines to achieve coherence in the undergraduate educational experience.

Courses approved for CSU GE should be responsive to the need for students to have developed knowledge of, or skills related to, quantitative reasoning, information literacy,

intellectual inquiry, global awareness and understanding, human diversity including ethnic studies, civic engagement, communication competence, ethical decision-making, environmental systems, technology, lifelong learning and self-development, and physical and emotional health throughout a lifetime.

2. Instructional Modality

GE requirements may be satisfied through courses taught in all modalities (e.g., face-to-face, hybrid, or completely online). Pursuant to California Education Code Section 66763, an online course shall be accepted for credit at the student's home campus on the same basis as it would be for a student matriculated at the host campus.

3. CSU Student Learning Outcomes

Each CSU campus shall define GE student-learning outcomes within a programmatic structure. For example, GE student-learning outcomes may fit within the framework of the four "Essential Learning Outcomes" drawn from the [Liberal Education and America's Promise \(LEAP\)](#), an initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes Framework

- Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
- Intellectual and Practical Skills
- Personal and Social Responsibility
- Integrative Learning

Article 4. Subject Area Distribution

Instruction approved to fulfill the following subject-area distribution requirements should recognize the contributions to knowledge and civilization that have been made by members of diverse cultural and gender groups.

Area A English Language Communication and Critical Thinking

9 semester units (12 quarter units)

One course in each Subarea.

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|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A1 | Oral Communication | (3 semester units or 4 quarter units) |
| A2 | Written Communication | (3 semester units or 4 quarter units) |
| A3 | Critical Thinking | (3 semester units or 4 quarter units) |

Area A requires 9 semester units or 12 quarter units in oral communication in the English language (A1), written communication in the English language (A2), and critical thinking (A3). Campuses shall not exceed these unit requirements.

Students taking courses in fulfillment of Subareas A1 and A2 will develop knowledge and understanding of the form, content, context and effectiveness of communication. Students will develop proficiency in oral and written communication in English, examining communication from the rhetorical perspective and practicing reasoning and advocacy, organization, and accuracy. Students will enhance their skills and abilities in the discovery, critical evaluation, and reporting of information, as well as reading, writing, and listening effectively. Coursework must include active participation and practice in both written communication and oral communication in English.

In critical thinking (Subarea A3) 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 (18 quarter units), with 3 semester units (4 quarter units) taken at the upper-division level

One course each in Subareas B1, B2, and B4, plus laboratory activity (B3) related to one of the completed science courses, and 3 additional semester units (4 quarter units) at the upper-division in one of the following Subareas.

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| B1 | Physical Science | (3 semester units or 4 quarter units) |
| B2 | Life Science | (3 semester units or 4 quarter units) |
| B3 | Laboratory Activity | A laboratory course of not more than 1 semester (2 quarter) unit value, associated with B1 or B2, may be required. |
| B4 | Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning | (3 semester units or 4 quarter units) |

Area B requires 12 semester units or 18 quarter units to include inquiry into the physical universe and its life forms, with participation in a related laboratory activity that may be embedded in a lecture course or taught as a separate 1 semester (2 quarter) unit course, and into mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning and their applications. Campuses shall not exceed these unit requirements.

It is expected that campuses could offer the laboratory experience within:

- a 3 semester (4 quarter) unit lecture course;
- a lecture plus laboratory course of 4 semester (6 quarter) units; or
- a standalone laboratory course of 1 semester (2 quarter) units.

In the latter two cases, the total number of lower-division GE semester units shall not exceed 40 (or equivalent quarter units).

In Subareas B1-B3, students develop knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data about both 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. The nature and extent of laboratory experience is to be determined by each campus through its established curricular procedures.

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. 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.

Satisfaction of CSU GE Area B4 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning shall fulfill CSU graduation requirements for mathematics/quantitative reasoning, exclusive of mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses necessary for satisfaction of major requirements.

Area C Arts and Humanities

12 semester units (18 quarter units), with 3 semester units (4 quarter units) taken at the upper-division level

One lower-division course completed in each of these 2 Subareas, plus one lower-division course completed in either subarea based on student choice, and 3 additional semester units (4 quarter units) at the upper-division in one of the following Subareas.

C1 Arts: (e.g., Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater)

C2 Humanities: (e.g., Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English)

Area C requires 12 semester units or 18 quarter units among the arts, literature, philosophy and foreign languages. Campuses shall not exceed these unit requirements.

Across the disciplines in Area C coursework, students will cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility and sensitivity. Students will respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and will develop an understanding of the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses. Students will cultivate and refine their affective, cognitive, and physical faculties through studying works of the human imagination. Activities may include participation in individual aesthetic, creative experiences; however, Area C excludes courses that exclusively emphasize skills development.

In their intellectual and subjective considerations, students will develop a better understanding of the interrelationship between the self and the creative arts and of the humanities in a variety of cultures.

Students may take courses in languages other than English in partial fulfillment of this requirement if the courses do not focus solely on skills acquisition but also contain a substantial cultural component. This may include literature, among other content.

Area D Social Sciences

9 semester units (12 quarter units), with 3 semester (4 quarter) units taken at the upper-division

Six semester lower-division units (8 quarter units) and 3 additional semester units (4 quarter units) at the upper-division. Courses shall be completed in at least 2 different disciplines among the 9 required semester units (or 12 required quarter units).

Area D requires 9 semester units or 12 quarter units dealing with human social, political and economic institutions and behavior, and their historical background. Courses shall be completed from at least two different disciplines among the 9 required semester units (and 12 required quarter units). One upper-division Area D course is required. Campuses shall not exceed these unit requirements.

Students learn from courses in multiple Area D disciplines that human social, political and economic institutions and 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 are excluded from Area D.

Area E Lifelong Learning and Self-Development

3 semester units (4 quarter units)

Area E requires 3 semester units (4 quarter units) of study at the lower-division, and campuses shall not exceed this unit requirement.

This requirement is designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings. Physical activity may be included, if it is an integral part of the study elements described herein.

Content may include topics such as student success strategies, human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, information literacy, social relationships and relationships with the environment, as well as implications of death and dying or avenues for lifelong learning. Courses in this area shall focus on the development of skills, abilities and dispositions.

Area F Ethnic Studies

3 semester units (4 quarter units)

This lower-division, 3 semester (4 quarter) unit requirement fulfills [Education Code Section 89032](#). The requirement to take a 3 semester (4 quarter) unit course in Area F shall not be waived or substituted.

To be approved for this requirement, courses shall have the following course prefixes: African American, Asian American, Latina/o American or Native American Studies. Similar course prefixes (e.g., Pan-African Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Ethnic Studies) shall also meet this requirement. Courses without ethnic studies prefixes may meet this requirement if cross-listed with a course with an ethnic studies prefix. Courses that are approved to meet this requirement shall meet at least 3 of the 5 the following core competencies. Campuses may add additional competencies to those listed.

1. Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism as analyzed in any one or more of the following: Native American Studies, African American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Latina and Latino American Studies.
2. Apply theory and knowledge produced by Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities to describe the critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived-experiences and social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group-affirmation.
3. Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age in Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities.
4. Critically review how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation, as experienced and enacted by Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and/or Latina and Latino Americans are relevant to current and structural issues such as communal, national, international, and transnational politics as, for example, in immigration, reparations, settler-colonialism, multiculturalism, language policies.
5. Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements in Native American, African American, Asian American and/or Latina and Latino communities and a just and equitable society.

As described in Article 6, CSU campuses may certify upper-division ethnic studies courses to satisfy the lower-division Area F requirement so long as adequate numbers of lower-division course options are available to students. As described in Article 2, ethnic studies courses required in majors, minors or that satisfy campus-wide requirements and are approved for GE Area F credit shall also fulfill (double count for) this requirement.

Article 5. Transfer and Articulation

This article pertains to regionally accredited CCC and non-CSU institutions that certify transfer students' fulfillment of CSU GE requirements.

1. **Premises of General Education Breadth Transfer and Certification**
 - a. It is the joint responsibility of the public segments of higher education to ensure that students are able to transfer without unreasonable loss of credit or time.
 - b. The faculty of an institution granting the baccalaureate degree have primary responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the degree program and determining when requirements have been met.
 - c. There shall ordinarily be a high degree of reciprocity among regionally accredited institutions unless there are specific indications that such reciprocity is not appropriate.
2. **Conditions for Participation in CSU General Education Breadth Certification**

CSU campuses may continue to articulate courses that meet GE requirements from other regionally accredited institutions. However, only CCC may participate in the annual CSU GE certification process, subject to the following provisions:

- a. The community college shall designate a liaison representative who shall participate in various orientation activities and provide other institutional staff with pertinent information.
- b. The community college shall identify for certification purposes those courses or examinations that fulfill the objectives set forth in Article 3 of this policy and any additional objectives implemented by the CSU Chancellor.
 1. The courses and examinations identified should be planned and organized to enable students to acquire abilities, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation as interrelated elements, not as isolated fragments.
 2. Interdisciplinary courses or integrated sets of courses that meet multiple CSU GE Breadth objectives may be used to satisfy CSU GE requirements.
 3. Units earned through an interdisciplinary course or integrated set of courses may be distributed among different GE Areas, as appropriate.
- c. The CSU Office of the Chancellor, Division of Academic and Student Affairs, shall maintain a list of courses and examinations that have been accepted for certification purposes by virtue of meeting requirements set forth in this policy for each GE Area.
 1. Each entry in the list shall specify the area to which the course or examination relates and the number of units associated with each area.
 2. The list shall be updated annually. Each institution shall transmit annually to the CSU Office of the Chancellor, Division of Academic and Student Affairs, any proposed changes to its portion of the list. If a course is to be added or if the specification of areas and objectives for a course is to be modified, the participating institution shall include in its submission the approved course outline. If a course is part of an integrated set of courses, the submission shall identify the set and describe how the course complements the others in the set.
 3. A copy of the list shall be made available in electronic form to any CSU campus or institution. CCC are free to share with other institutions their course outlines and communications about those course outlines.
 4. The CCC shall be responsible for reviewing periodically its portion of the list to assure that entries continue to be appropriate and to reflect current knowledge in the field.
 5. The CCC shall report certification for individual students in a format to be specified.

3. Certification Requirements

1. Definition

GE certification indicates that a transfer student has met CSU lower-division GE

requirements. CSU campuses shall accept participating institutions' full certification or subject-area certification, as defined below.

2. Full Certification

1. Fulfillment of Lower-Division Requirements

Students admitted to a CSU campus with full certification shall not be held to additional lower-division general education requirements.

2. Additional Lower-Division Graduation Requirements

Full certification does not exempt students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the GE program of the campus awarding the degree, so long as the requirement is accommodated within the Associate Degree for Transfer (when applicable).

3. Qualification for Full Certification

To qualify for full certification, a student must satisfactorily complete 39 lower-division semester units, or the quarter unit equivalent, of instruction appropriate to meet the objectives of Articles 3 (Premises) and 4 (Subject-Area Distribution). If a student completes a laboratory experience with academic credit, as described in Subarea B3, the student may be certified for 40 semester units or the quarter equivalent. CCC GE certification does not guarantee that all CSU campus admission requirements have been met. Units must be distributed as follows below (except as specified in 5.3.5 below):

- a. In Area A, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), including instruction in oral communication, written communication, and critical thinking.
- b. In Area B, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), including instruction in physical science and life science, at least one part of which must include a laboratory component, and mathematics/quantitative reasoning. If a student completes a laboratory experience with academic credit, as described in Subarea B3, the student may be certified for 10 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).
- c. In Area C, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), with at least one course in the arts and one in the humanities.
- d. In Area D, 6 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).
- e. Area E, 3 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).
- f. Area F, 3 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).

3. Lower-Division Subject-Area (Partial) Certification

1. Fulfillment of Lower-Division Requirements by Area

Students admitted to a CSU campus with subject-area certification may not be held to any additional lower-division GE coursework in the subject areas certified.

2. **Certification Limits on Credits that Exceed Minimum Subject-Area Requirements**

For subject-area certification, CSU campuses are not required to certify credits that exceed the number of lower-division units required for the six Subject Areas—A through F.

3. **Additional Lower-Division Graduation Requirements**

Subject-area certification does not exempt students from completing unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the GE requirements at the campus awarding the degree.

4. **Qualification for Subject-Area Certification**

To qualify for subject-area certification, a student must satisfactorily complete instruction appropriate to meet the objectives of one or more subsections of Article 4 (Subject-Area Distribution). Except as specified in 5.3.5, the units shall be distributed as follows:

- a. For Area A, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), including instruction in oral communication, written communication, and critical thinking. A single course may not be certified as meeting more than one Subarea within Area A for any given student.
- b. For Area B, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), including instruction in mathematics/quantitative reasoning and physical science and life science, at least one part of which must include a laboratory component. A single course may not be certified as meeting more than one Subarea within Area B for any given student, except for laboratory components incorporated into a physical or life science course. If a student completes a laboratory experience with academic credit, as described in Subarea B3, the student may be certified for 10 semester (or the quarter equivalent) units.
- c. For Area C, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), with at least one course in the arts and one in the humanities.
- d. For Area D, 6 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).
- e. For Area E, 3 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).
- f. For Area F, 3 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).

4. **Approved Associate Degree for Transfer**

Students are considered lower-division CSU GE certified if they successfully

complete and are awarded a CCC Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) that includes the CSU GE Breadth Patterns, as specified in Article 2, Section 1.

5. **General Education Breadth for STEM Majors within ADTs**

Students pursuing certain ADTs may be eligible to take "GE Breadth for STEM," deferring one lower-division course in Subarea C and one lower-division course in Subarea D until after transfer. GE Breadth for STEM is applicable only to majors for which the Transfer Model Curriculum specifies GE Breadth for STEM.

CCC preparing a CSU GE Breadth for STEM certification as part of an ADT shall ensure that the student has completed:

- a. All courses in Areas A, B, E and F of the traditional GE curriculum; and
- b. One course in Area C1 Arts and one course in Area C2 Humanities; and
- c. One course in Area D.

Details of each Transfer Model Curriculum are maintained and published at www.ccid.net.

6. **Exceptions to Certification Requirements**

At the discretion of the CSU campus, exceptions to the requirements for full certification and subject-area certification (as specified above) may be made for programs in which instruction is integrated into a set of courses or into interdisciplinary courses designed to meet multiple objectives. Interdisciplinary courses in this case would be expected to be offered at an appropriately greater number of units.

4. **Certification of Courses**

1. **Qualification for Certification**

A CCC may certify coursework completed at another CCC if the courses were on the approved certification list at the CCC. The course shall be certified in the CSU GE Breadth Area or Subarea that is on the official certification list for the CCC at which the course was completed.

2. If so identified by a CCC, those courses shall contribute to qualification of a student for either full certification or subject-area certification, as appropriate.
3. A CCC may include upper-division courses taken at regionally-accredited institutions in certification of lower-division CSU GE or IGETC.
4. Coursework completed at regionally-accredited institutions shall be reviewed for certification purposes by the CCC faculty in the discipline or their designee (e.g., Articulation Officer) to determine if the course is comparable to current CSU GE Breadth requirements.
5. A CCC may certify coursework taken at regionally accredited institutions if the faculty of that CCC or the Articulation Officer determine that the coursework is

equivalent to the coursework on their college's approved CSU GE Breadth certification list.

5. Limitations of Certification

1. Restriction to General Education Requirements

Subject-area certification shall not exempt students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the GE program of the campus awarding the degree.

2. Full certification shall not exempt students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the GE program of the campus awarding the degree, so long as the requirement is accommodated within the Associate Degree for Transfer.

3. Maximum Number of Credits Allowed

1. Limit on Certification on Total General Education Units

A CCC shall not certify a student for more than 39 semester units or the quarter equivalent. If more than one CCC certifies a student, the CSU campus granting the degree is not required to accept certification for more than 39 semester units or the quarter equivalent. If a student completes a laboratory experience with academic credit, as described in Subarea B3, the student may be certified for 40 semester (or the quarter equivalent) units.

2. Restrictions on Certification of Upper-Division Courses

No upper-division credit may be allowed for courses taken in a community college (Title 5 Section 40409.)

6. General Education Certification Reciprocity Among CSU Campuses

1. Lower-Division Reciprocity

- a. Lower-division GE requirements satisfied through a course or an examination at one CSU campus shall be accepted as fulfilling the same requirements at the CSU campus granting the baccalaureate degree.
- b. For the purposes of this section, completion of lower-division GE requirements is equivalent to qualification for full certification, as defined in 5.3.2.

2. Subject-Area Reciprocity

- a. Subject-area course certification accepted for CSU GE at one CSU campus shall be accepted at any CSU campus. The student may not be held to any additional lower-division GE coursework in the subject areas certified.
- b. Students seeking to transfer under the provisions of this section shall be responsible for requesting verification that lower-division GE program or subject-area requirements have been met. Upon the request of a currently or formerly enrolled student, the CSU campus from which the student

seeks to transfer shall determine the extent to which that student has satisfactorily completed the lower-division GE requirements in each subject area, and shall provide official documentation of such completion.

- c. For the purposes of this section, completion of lower-division GE subject-area requirements is equivalent to qualification for subject-area certification, as defined in 5.3.3.
- d. Transfer students admitted with documentation of completion of one or more GE subject areas at another CSU campus may not be held to any additional lower-division GE requirements in that subject area by the campus awarding the degree.

3. **Upper-division Reciprocity**

Upper-division GE requirements satisfied at one CSU campus shall be accepted as fulfilling the same requirements at the CSU campus granting the baccalaureate degree.

4. **Reciprocity Limitations**

The provisions of 5.6 do not exempt students from fulfilling unmet lower- or upper-division graduation requirements at the CSU campus awarding the degree or from lower or upper-division courses required by individual baccalaureate majors at the CSU campus awarding the degree.

Article 6. Implementation and Governance

1. **General Education Advisory Committee**

A systemwide Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) is hereby established. While it is important that the membership of this committee be broadly based, it shall in largest part be drawn from the instructional faculty of the CSU. Each member of the committee shall have an equal vote. The membership shall include

- At minimum, six CSU faculty to be appointed by the Academic Senate, CSU. One shall serve as chair, and another as vice-chair.
- One CSU student to be appointed by the California State Student Association,
- One instructional faculty member from the CCC,
- One CSU campus academic affairs administrator,
- One CSU articulation officer,
- One CCC articulation officer,
- One Chancellor's Office administrator to staff the committee (ex-officio, non-voting)
- One CCC Chancellor's Office administrator (ex-officio, non-voting)

The chancellor or the executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Division may from time to time request that the committee address and provide advice on issues related to

the development and well-being of CSU GE policy and programs.

The responsibilities of this committee shall be as follows:

- a. Report as appropriate to the chancellor.
- b. Review the implications of CSU GE policy for students transferring to the CSU and for the institutions from which they transfer, and propose any necessary adjustments to pertinent policies and practices so that students may be better served in their educational pursuits and achievement of the baccalaureate degree.
- c. Study GE policies and practices inside and outside the system and, as appropriate, stimulate intersegmental discussion of GE policy and curricula.
- d. Review and propose revisions to the objectives, requirements, and implementation of CSU GE policy to ensure high-quality general education.

2. Campus Responsibility

1. Development and Revision of Campus Requirements

Campus faculty have primary responsibility for developing and revising the institution's particular GE program. Within the CSU GE distribution framework, each CSU campus is to exercise creativity in identifying courses, disciplines, and learning outcomes. In undertaking this task, careful attention should be given to the following:

a. General Education Program Development

1. Assure that GE requirements are planned and organized so that their objectives are perceived by students as interrelated elements, not as isolated fragments.
2. Provide for reasonable ordering of requirements so that, for example, courses focusing on learning skills will be completed relatively early and those emphasizing integrative experiences will be completed relatively later.
3. Develop programs that are responsive to educational goals and student needs, rather than programs based on traditional titles of academic disciplines and organizational units.

b. General Education Course Development

1. Consider the organization of approved courses so that students may choose from among a variety of "cores" or "themes," each with an underlying unifying rationale.
2. Consider the possibility of incorporating integrative courses, especially at the upper-division level, that feature the interrelationships among disciplines and traditional GE categories.
3. Consider possibilities for innovative teaching and learning, including activity as well as observation in all GE coursework.

c. **General Education Course Delivery**

1. Provide sufficient numbers of Area A2 written communication and Area B4 mathematics/quantitative reasoning course sections to allow freshmen to complete these requirements in the first year of enrollment.
2. Provide for at least one course in Ethnic Studies as stipulated in Education Code Section 89032.
3. Courses approved for GE that have not been offered within a five-year period shall have GE status removed.
4. CSU campuses may certify upper-division courses for lower-division CSU GE Breadth requirements so long as adequate numbers of lower-division course options are available to students.

2. **Campus General Education Committee**

The effectiveness of a campus GE program is dependent upon the adequacy of curricular supervision, internal integrity and overall fiscal and academic support. Toward this end, each campus shall have a broadly representative GE committee, a majority of which shall be instructional faculty and shall also include student membership. The committee will provide oversight and make recommendations concerning the implementation, conduct and evaluation of requirements specified in this policy. As a companion to the GE committee, a campus may choose to establish a GE program assessment committee to conduct the work described in 6.2.5 of this policy.

3. **General Education Breadth Requirements and the Development of New Baccalaureate Degrees**

The development of new baccalaureate programs shall include consideration of how the degree requirements will incorporate the required GE units, the major program requirements, and other graduation requirements. Justifications must be provided to the Office of the Chancellor for any program extending the baccalaureate credit requirement beyond 120 units (Title 5, Section 40508).

4. **General Education Academic Advising**

Each campus shall provide for systematic, readily available academic advising specifically oriented to GE as one means of achieving greater cohesiveness in student choices of course offerings to fulfill these requirements.

a. **General Education Website**

Each CSU campus shall provide a public website that describes the institution's GE program. This website should include at minimum: GE requirements, courses certified for GE, CSU system GE policy and campus GE policy, and campus GE program and GE Area student-learning outcomes.

- b. Each CSU campus shall clearly identify, in the catalog and/or course schedule, courses that are certified for each GE Area and Subarea.

5. General Education Review and Assessment

In accordance with WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) accreditation requirements, campuses shall:

- a. develop an assessment plan that: (1) aligns the GE curriculum with campus GE outcomes; (2) specifies explicit criteria for assessing the stated outcomes; (3) identifies when and how each outcome shall be assessed; (4) organizes and analyzes the collection of evidence; (5) and uses the assessment results to make improvements to the GE program, courses and pedagogy.
- b. provide for regular periodic reviews of GE program policies and practices in a manner comparable to those of major programs, including evaluation by an external reviewer. The review should include a statement of the Meaning, Quality and Integrity of the campus GE program and the ongoing assessment of GE student learning outcomes.

History

Executive Order #338 (General Education-Breadth Requirements) was approved on October 29, 1980 and has gone through several iterations since then. Copies of those documents are attached.

Timeline of the historical changes and updates.

10/29/1980 - EO 338 established

04/01/1981 - EO 342 established

11/20/1992 - EO 595 supersedes EO 338 & EO 342

06/18/2008 - EO 1033 supersedes EO 595

09/16/2011 - EO 1065 supersedes EO 1033

02/16/2015 - EO 1100 supersedes EO 1065

08/23/2017 - EO 1100 Revised supersedes EO 1100

12/3/2020 - CSU General Education Breadth Requirements (EO 1100) updated

Authority

This policy is issued pursuant to Education Code 66763, 89032, 66745-66749.7. Title 5, *California Code of Regulations*, sections 40402.1, 40403, 40405, 40405.1, 40405.2, 40405.3, 40405.4, and 40508, and the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees, Section II(a). [Section II of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of the California State University](#) as further delegated by the [Standing Delegations of Administrative Authority](#).

All Revision Dates

12/3/2020, 8/23/2017

Attachments

[CSU General Education Breadth Requirements \(updated 12-03-2020\).pdf](#)

[EO 0338.pdf](#)

[EO 0342.pdf](#)

[EO 0595 supersedes EO 338 & EO 342.pdf](#)

[EO 1033 supersedes EO 595.pdf](#)

[EO 1065 supersedes EO 1033.pdf](#)

[EO 1100 Revised supersedes EO 1100.pdf](#)

[EO 1100 supersedes EO 1065.pdf](#)

[New Attachment A 11-18-20.docx](#)

Approval Signatures

| Step Description | Approver | Date |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| EVC | Loren Blanchard: EVC Academic/Student Affairs [NE] | 12/3/2020 |
| Area Manager/Owner | Christina Gutierrez: Comm Spclst, Acad & Sdnt Affrs | 12/2/2020 |
| Area Manager/Owner | Sara Zaragoza: Executive Assistant | 12/2/2020 |