
General Education Philosophy

The General Education Program at Orange Coast College provides a breadth and depth of learning that empowers students to meet the work, life, and global citizenship challenges of the present and future.

The Program is the foundation of life-long learning, as it develops the essential knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that students need to succeed in a complex and changing world.

Students gain skills in communication, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning as well as knowledge of science, cultures, and society; the use of “real-world” or “hands-on” applications, studio practice, performance, or artistic form; a strong sense of ethical and social responsibility; and the ability to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills, and values acquired in general education to new settings and complex problems and challenges.

The General Education Program values and prioritizes broad, diverse perspectives, cross-disciplinary learning, intellectual curiosity, information literacy, the critical and creative inquiry into matters, both contemporary and enduring.

General education courses must support one of the following student learning outcomes:

1. Students will be able to read, write, listen, and speak competently while demonstrating critical/analytical thinking skills.
2. Students will apply critical thinking skills concerning the causes and effects of natural phenomena and will become familiar with the rational approach that researchers use to analyze data and formulate logical conclusions.
3. Students will develop skill sets associated with the arts and humanities by analyzing aesthetic qualities, evaluating, and developing rational arguments, identifying cultural and historical influences, and engaging in artistic expression.

4. Students will use the theoretical and methodological principles of the social and behavioral sciences to explain and evaluate institutions, groups, and individuals across social, economic, and global contexts of historical periods.
5. Students will develop and demonstrate the life skills of interpersonal relationships, self-understanding and management, and decision making for professional success and personal well-being.

General Education Guidelines

(See PCAH, pp. 74-75)

1. General education is concerned with general, rather than specialized, content. It stresses knowledge about human society, its functions, and participation in it; cultural heritages and appreciation of them; the natural world and the relationship to it.
2. General education emphasizes the frames of understanding used in collecting, organizing and responding to experience. These frames stress the commonalities among the humanities, arts, physical sciences, biological sciences, and social sciences and shows their interrelationships.

Listed below are criteria for determining if a course is appropriate for general education. A course need not meet all of the criteria, but it must meet the intent they represent.

CRITERIA/CHECK-LIST FOR COURSE ADDITION(S) TO, OR DELETIONS FROM GENERAL EDUCATION.

- a basic orientation, introduction course
- the course is integrated and not specialized
- basic principles or survey course
- general breadth, not specialized
- assists in the basic understanding of a major field of knowledge
- synthesizes knowledge; offers a view of the world through a discipline's lens
- introduces a subject commonly taught to freshmen or sophomores
- basic liberal arts: basic studies, interdisciplinary
- offers an understanding of world cultures
- promotes self-awareness and personal development
- SAM code of D or E (not vocational/occupational)
- not higher than second-level in a sequence

- approved for CSU/IGETC breadth

Deadlines for submittal:

- CSU and IGETC general education requests: Friday before the first Tech Review in November
- Local AA/AS general education pattern: Friday before the first Tech Review in March

General Education requests must be submitted via the Curriculum Committee portal.