

General Education at the University of Guam

Ina, Diskubre, Setbe,
To Enlighten, to Discover, to Serve

A primary mission of the University of Guam is to prepare students for life by providing educational opportunities to increase knowledge, develop skills, and strengthen values essential to living in our rapidly evolving world. General Education is commonly seen as providing the foundation for programs to fulfill their specific responsibilities. Recent reports indicate that the most successful institutions incorporate general education goals throughout all years of study even within major programs. Integrating the goals of general education across all years also meets Standard 2 of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

A Three Tiered Structure

After extensive reviews and discussion the UOG Faculty Senate General Education Review Committee (GERC) developed a three-tiered framework to the General Education curriculum. Tier I (called *Core Foundation*) provides a foundation of the five WASC core competencies. Tier II (called *Breadth through Diversity and Direction*) provides the breadth needed for successful and healthy living as well as direction toward and into a major. Tier III (called *Capstone Experience*) fosters mastery of the core competencies embedded within program objectives enhanced by the values of modern academia (creativity, innovation, diversity, ethical and civic responsibility, and civic engagement¹). The three tiers work together to meet the aspirations of academia while fulfilling the mission of the University of Guam and satisfying WASC expectations.

General Education Requirements

Students who plan to complete a baccalaureate degree at the University of Guam are required to complete the General Education program described in the catalog. The General Education program emphasized the common need for learning experiences, including an understanding of the fundamentals of major fields of knowledge. It provides opportunities for the individual majors and colleges to include, within the specific career programs they offer, further relevant general educational experiences. Please contact an academic advisor in the college/school of your interest.

NOTES ON GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES:

- (i) Some of the courses listed below have pre-requisites.
- (ii) No one course may satisfy more than one general education requirement.
- (iii) Students are advised to check the requirements for their major before taking general education courses.
- (iv) The program faculty shall determine whether any course taken to satisfy general education requirements may also count toward fulfillment of

major and/or minor requirements. Even though one course may be allowed to satisfy both general education and major/minor requirements, the number of credit hours will only be counted once. For further information, please contact and academic advisor.

Students must satisfy each tier within general education. No one course may satisfy more than one general education requirement.

Table 1

Summary of General Education Requirements.

GENERAL EDUCATION TIER REQUIREMENTS

Tier I: Core Foundation – 15 credits required

Tier II: Breadth Through Diversity and Direction

Diversity Foundation: 16 credit hours

Uniquely UOG: 7 credit hours

Direction Building: 9 -11 credit hours

Tier III: Capstone Experience – 0 credit hours for general education

Total: Up to 47 credit hours (*plus possibly 2 lab. hours)

Tier I: Core Foundation

The WASC core competencies include written and oral communication, quantitative skills, information literacy, and critical thinking. The core competencies provide a unifying foundation by establishing common learning expectancies that can be satisfied by successful completion of the following courses. Students enroll in at least two of these courses each semester until completing the requirement, and all courses must be completed with a 'C' or better by the end of their second year. Students may not enroll in 300-level courses or higher until successfully satisfying all Core Foundation requirements. Because Core Foundation courses are required for all students, they are excluded from major requirements (i.e., cannot fulfill general education and major; no double counting of core courses).

Written Communication:

EN110 Freshman Composition 3 crs

Oral Communication:

CO210 Fundamentals of Communication 3 crs

Quantitative Reasoning:

MA110 Basic Mathematical Applications* 3 crs

Information Literacy:

EN111 Writing for Research 3 crs

Critical Thinking:

CT101 Critical Thinking 3 crs

* or higher

- BI103/L Marine Biology
- BI201 Natural History of Guam
- ED265 Culture and Education In Guam
- EN213 Literature, Myth, and Culture
- EN333 Literature of Guam, Micronesia, and the Pacific
- HI211 History of Guam
- HI243 History of Micronesia
- JA215 Japanese for Tourism
- PS225 State and Territorial Government

Direction Building

9-11 Crs

The Direction Building component provides options for students guided by program requirements. Students satisfy this component by taking three courses, each from a different Diversity Foundation theme. One of the three courses must have a Core Foundation, Diversity Foundation, or Uniquely UOG course as a prerequisite. This allows students to explore interests sparked in the foundation component while going deeper into a theme. However, students who have declared their major prior to completing this component may take two of the three courses within their major program. SLOs for the Direction Building component are closely related to PLOs that reinforce the Core and Diversity Foundation SLOs.

Tier III: Capstone Experience

Program Major Capstone course

0 GE Crs

Tier III of the General Education framework is embedded wholly within program requirements. Programs likely would fulfill this requirement by using one or more high impact practice (capstone, thematic, research, etc.) to enhance the major experience and better prepare students for life after graduation, be it the workplace or graduate school.

¹WASC Standard 2

- CO106 Introduction to Mass Communications
- GE201 World Regional Geography
- HI121 World History I
- HI122 World History II
- LN101 Introduction to Language
- PI101 Introduction to Philosophy
- PI102 Contemporary Ethical Problems
- PS101 Introduction to Government and Politics
- SO202 Contemporary Social Problems
- SW110 Introduction to Community Services on Guam
- WG101 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies

5. Cultural Perspective

3 Crs

Create awareness of diverse cultural perspectives, intercultural diversity, including its ethical components, and the significance of tolerance, both regionally and globally. (Students should take one of the following courses.)

- AN101 Introduction to Anthropology
- ED265 Culture and Education on Guam
- HI211 History of Guam
- HI243 History of Micronesia
- PI103 Introduction to Asian Philosophy
- PS202 Government in the United States
- SW201 Social Welfare and Development: Global Challenges

Uniquely UOG

7 Crs

Students satisfy the Uniquely UOG by completing two courses, one of which must be a language other than English. This component is composed of courses with local relevance drawn from diverse disciplines. The thematic statement for this component is: Identify the unique cultural, linguistic, historical, political, and/or geographic features and discuss contemporary issues related to Guam and the region in order to recognize the importance of contributing their knowledge and skills to the local and/or regional community. (Students should take one of the following language courses and one of the following regional courses.)

Language:

- CM101 Elementary Chamorro
- CI101 Elementary Chinese
- FR101 Elementary French I
- GN101 Elementary German I
- JA101 Elementary Japanese I
- PN101 Conversation Pohnpeian
- SN101 Elementary Spanish
- TA101 Conversational Tagalog

Regional:

- BI100/L Environmental Biology

Tier II: Breadth through Diversity & Direction

Tier II of a UOG general education establishes the breadth of knowledge available at UOG by exposing students to diverse fields of study and providing direction toward a major. The diversity component (called *Diversity Foundation*) exposes students to the primary ways of being in our world and how that affects them personally while complimenting their major program of study. The Uniquely UOG component is composed of courses with local relevance drawn from diverse disciplines. The directional component (called *Direction Building*) guides students into a major program of study by building on the Diversity Foundation.

Diversity Foundation

The Diversity Foundation is made up of five themes. The five themes are Science & Math; Human Science; Creative and Expressive Arts, Human Systems and Organization; and Cultural Perspectives. Students satisfy the Diversity Foundation component by successfully completing one course from each theme. These courses may count toward general education and program majors (i.e., double counting encouraged).

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING & MATH (STEM)

1. Science & Math

3-4 Crs

Demonstrate basic scientific methods by employing appropriate technological, mathematical, analytical, experimental and other tools commonly accepted in the scientific community. Reason and solve problems from a wide array of contexts; create logical arguments supported by quantitative evidence; and communicate those arguments in a variety of formats (e.g., words, tables, and mathematical equations) as appropriate. (Students should take one of the following courses.)

AG101/L Introduction to Agriculture
AG102/L Introduction to Plant Science
AG109/L Insect World
AG136/L Science of Aquaculture
BI100/L Environmental Biology
BI103/L Marine Biology
BI201 Natural History of Guam
CH100/L Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry
CH101/L Introduction to Organic Chemistry
CH102/L General Chemistry
CH103/L General Chemistry
CS200 Computer Applications and Lab
GE203/L Principle of Physical Geography
MA115 Introductory College Algebra
MA151 Introductory Statistics

2. Human Science

3-4 Crs

Investigate and interpret aspects of human life and activities in a systematic way that validates sensory and psychological experiences. Such inquiries can be subject to experimentation and includes quantitative scientific methodologies in its interpretation. These fields include, but are not limited to, biology, human nutrition and behavior, psychology, and agriculture. (Students should take one of the following courses.)

AG101/L Introduction to Agriculture
AG102/L Introduction to Plant Science
AG109/L Insect World
AG136/L Science of Aquaculture
AN203 Introduction to Archaeology
BI110/L Human Biology
CF230 Nutrition And Health
GE101 Introduction to Geography
HS200 Health And Wellness
PI210 Introduction to Logic
PS215 International Relations
PY101 General Psychology
SO101 Introduction to Sociology
SO221 Sociology of Health and Medicine

HUMANITIES

3. Creative and Expressive Arts

3 Crs

Engage in creative expression through artistic activity and/or identify and analyze the impact of cultural and historical factors on the creation and reception of written or artistic works. (Students should take one of the following courses.)

AR101 Introduction to Art
AR102 Studio for Non-Majors
EN210 Introduction to Literature
EN213 Literature, Myth, And Culture
MU101 Music Fundamentals
MU102 World Music
MU106 Introduction to Music
MU110 Class Voice
MU121 Beginning Class Piano
TH101 Introduction To The Theater
TH102 Acting I

4. Human Systems and Organizations

3 Crs

Evaluate human systems and organizations from diverse viewpoints including cultural, ethical, political, economic, social and historical perspectives while explaining individual and/or institutional behavior and change. (Students should take one of the following courses.)