



Book	Sonoma County Junior College District Board Policy Manual
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3.1P  
 PROCEDURES FOR APPROVING GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES  
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The General Education Subcommittee of the Curriculum Review Committee will review all courses proposed to satisfy General Education requirements at the Sonoma County Junior College District, then forward its recommendations to the Curriculum Review Committee for approval. When appropriate, the General Education Subcommittee will consult with appropriate faculty prior to making its recommendations.

A course approved for the General Education pattern should meet the following criteria:

1. The course should be introductory in nature, broad in scope, and of value to non-majors.
2. The course should be of value to students in and of itself. Courses that are taught in sequence can be approved so long as each course meets this criterion.
3. The course should promote lifelong learning in the discipline.
4. In a general education course, the student should develop his or her ability to do one or more of the following:
  - a. Think clearly, logically, and ethically;
  - b. Find information from a variety of source using a variety of technologies;
  - c. Examine information critically;
  - d. Communicate effectively both in speaking and in writing;
  - e. Reason quantitatively; and,
  - f. Work collaboratively.
5. The course work should call for critical thinking
6. Where appropriate in the general education pattern, the course should:

- a. Involve students actively in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major social problems;
- b. Engage students in thinking about ethical problems;
- c. Encourage students to develop a critical awareness of and informed participation in the natural and social worlds in which we live;
- d. Encourage students to discover connections with other disciplines;
- e. Encourage students to develop an awareness of other cultures and historical periods.

7. The course must be appropriate to the associate degree and meet the standards and criteria for associate degree credit courses.

8. In addition to the criteria stated above, the course must meet the specific criteria for one of the District's general education areas:

#### **Area A – English Composition**

A course fulfilling the written composition requirement shall include instruction in and evaluation of both expository and argumentative writing. Students admitted for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, must obtain a grade of "C" or better in freshman composition (English 1A). Students who entered prior to Fall 2009 who retain catalog rights may fulfill this requirement with English 1A or with an English course one level below freshman composition (English 100) or its equivalent.

#### **Area B – Communication and Analytical Thinking**

Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines.

#### **Area C – Natural Sciences**

Courses fulfilling the natural sciences requirement examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena help the student develop an understanding of the scientific method, and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities. This includes introductory courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

#### **Area D – Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Courses fulfilling the social and behavioral sciences requirement focus on people as members of society stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This includes introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

#### **Area E – Humanities**

Courses fulfilling the humanities requirement study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creations and help the student develop aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. This includes introductory or integrative course in the arts, foreign language, literature, philosophy, and religion.

#### **Area F – American Institutions**

Courses fulfilling American Institutions requirement, help students to understand the history of the United States and/or the rights and responsibilities of participating in the democracy of the United States. Courses must satisfy the "Graduation Requirements in United States History, Constitution, and American Ideals" published by the Office of the Chancellor for the California State University and Colleges with an advisory of freshman composition (English 1A).

#### **Area G – American Cultures or Ethnic Studies Requirement**

Courses fulfilling the American Cultures requirement must meet the following guidelines:

- a. Take a comparative and integrative approach to the study of at least three of the following groups studied within the larger context of United States culture: African, Asian, Chicano/Latino, European, Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, or Middle Eastern. One group should not be the focus of a greater part of the course.
- b. Address major theoretical or analytical issues relevant to understanding the meaning of and dynamic interactions between race, ethnicity, and gender in the United States.
- c. Where appropriate to the breadth, depth, and learning objectives of a particular course, to examine how issues of class, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, or Deaf culture help structure our common experience.
- d. Require reading and writing skills taught at the English 100 level or higher.

Courses fulfilling the Ethnic studies requirement must meet the following guidelines:

- a. Provide a focused examination of one of the following groups: African American, Asian American, Chicano/Latino American, Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, and Americans of Middle Eastern origin.
- b. Include explicit comparisons with other American cultures or ethnic groups.
- c. Address major theoretical or analytical issues relevant to understanding the meaning of and dynamic interactions between race, ethnicity, and gender in the United States.
- d. Allow the option, where appropriate to the breadth, depth, and learning objectives of a particular course, to examine how issues of class, sexual orientation, age, religions, disability, or Deaf culture help structure our common experience.
- e. Require reading and writing skills taught at the English 100 level or higher.

#### **Area H – Environmental or Global Studies**

Courses fulfilling the Environmental or Global Studies requirement issues, theories, controversies, or challenges related to global and/or environmental topics as either the primary focus of the class or the principle interpretive theme while covering other subjects or topics. Courses that will include both global and environmental coverage must indicate one of these two areas as "primary" for purposes of catalogue listings. The presentation of more than one point of view, without the privileging of one, shall be required whenever possible or appropriate.

#### **Area I – Information Literacy**

Courses fulfilling the Information Literacy requirement must give students the ability to:

- a. Recognize the need for information;
- b. Form appropriate questions based on information needs;
- c. Identify potential sources of information;
- d. Use available information tools to locate and retrieve relevant information;
- e. Evaluate found information on the basis of reliability, accuracy, authority, appropriateness, timeliness and point of view or bias;
- f. Synthesize and integrate new and existing information; and
- g. Recognize the ethical and legal issues concerning the use of information and information technology.

When a department elects to add an Area I course to the list of approved "Credit by Examination" classes, students may fulfill this requirement by passing a challenge examination. The examination will be administered by the department teaching the course. The examination shall be based on the Information Literacy standards, performance indicators and outcomes presented in the course outline.