

Curriculum Handbook

Chapter 7. General Education Requirements

7.1 Overview

This chapter outlines the standards and basic processes used to review courses proposed to meet general education and graduation requirements, including the following patterns:

- Napa Valley College General Education (Local GE)
- CSU General Education Breadth (CSU GE)
- Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) i5

- Wherever possible, Local GE placement processes and deadlines shall attempt to align with Transfer GE categories and effective approval dates.

7.3 Proposing a Course for General Education

Faculty may propose adding a GE designation to a new or existing course through the curriculum management system (CourseLeaf). The consideration to designate a course as meeting GE criteria is based on a review of the course outline of record (COR). Faculty are encouraged to meet with the Articulation Officer early during the course development process to ensure that evidence to support a specific GE designation is clearly and explicitly described in the COR. The Articulation Officer may also reach out to faculty authors with suggestions for GE placement during the review of new courses.

Requests for Local GE placement must be recommended by members of the GE Subcommittee and approved by the Curriculum Committee. Committee members will review the COR in the context of Local GE categories and requirements when making recommendations for placement. (Courses that are unanimously recommended by the GE Subcommittee will go on the Curriculum Committee's consent agenda; in the case of a split vote, they will be placed on the action agenda for further discussion.)

Requests for Transfer GE placement (CSU GE and/or IGETC) are submitted by the Articulation Officer through the ASSIST database. Approvals are determined based on external review of the COR by faculty within the CSU and UC systems. The Articulation Officer will communicate external decisions on CSU GE and IGETC approvals to faculty authors as they are received and advise faculty on any necessary follow up.

- Courses approved for CSU GE Area B1: Physical Science, CSU GE Area B2: Life Science, IGETC Area 5A: Physical Science, or IGETC Area 5B: Biological Science are assumed to meet Napa Valley College's GE Area A.

Area B: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society. These courses will develop an awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They should also stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act in response to their societies and should promote an appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This area includes introductory or integrative courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political sc

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- Apply theory and knowledge produced by Native American, African Americans, Asian Americans, 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.
- 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.
- 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 structural issues such as communal, national, international politics as, for example, in immigration, reparations, settler-colonialism, multiculturalism, and language policies.
- 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 American communities and a just and equitable society.

7.4.1 Other Associate Degree Graduation Requirements

In addition to courses fulfilling the Local GE areas listed above, the Associate Degree (A.A. or A.S.) includes additional course requirements specific to Napa Valley College. These graduation requirements, as defined in AP 4100, are more disciplinary-specific and focused in scope. Unless otherwise noted, courses in these areas may be used to meet multiple requirements (double count), including general education and major requirements, and competencies.

Placement of courses in these areas will be determined by review of the discipline, objectives, and content areas listed in the COR and through consultation with discipline faculty. New courses meeting these graduation requirements will be placed on the agenda of the GE Subcommittee and included on the consent agenda of the Curriculum Committee.

Kinesiology/Health Requirement

Courses fulfilling the kinesiology and health requirement focus on the practice and study of human movement, sports, health, fitness, and better living. This area includes courses in kinesiology, physical education, dance, and health, and related disciplines.

Students majoring in health occupations fields, veterans with six months service, students who have completed the policy academy, and students who have already earned a bachelor's degree or higher are all exempt from the kinesiology/health graduation requirement.

American History and Institutions Requirement (A.A. degree only)

Courses fulfilling the American History and Institutions requirement examine the historical development of American institutions and ideals, as well as the Constitution of the United States, the operation of representative democratic government under the Constitution, and the process of California state and local government. Students must complete one course in American history and one course in American government. The courses chosen to satisfy this requirement cannot be used to satisfy Local GE Area B: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Courses meeting the requirement in American history must include all of the following subject matter elements:

- Significant events covering a minimum time span of approximately one hundred years and occurring in the entire area now included in the United States of America, including the relationship of regions within that area and with external regions and powers as appropriate to the understanding of those events within the United States during the period under study.
- The role of major ethnic and social groups in such events and the contexts in which the events have occurred.
- The events presented within a framework that illustrates the continuity of the American experience and its derivation from other cultures, including consideration of three or more of the following: politics, economics, social movements, and geography.

Courses meeting the requirement in American government must include all of the following subject matter elements:

- The political philosophies of the framers of the Constitution and the nature and operation of United States political institutions and processes under that Constitution as amended and interpreted.
- The rights and obligations of citizens in the political system established under the Constitution.
- The Constitution of the state of California with the framework of evolution of federal-state relations and the nature and processes of state and local government under that Constitution.
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7.4.2 Competencies for the Associate Degree

Competencies are academic knowledge, skills, and abilities that a student must master as part of the Associate Degree. These competencies are required by both title 5 regulations and local requirements as described in AP 4100. At Napa Valley College, students will demonstrate tra

Placement of courses meeting the cultural competency must be voted on by members of the GE Subcommittee and approved by the Curriculum Committee based on a review of the COR. All courses that fulfill the Ethnic Studies graduation requirement also satisfy the cultural competency requirement.

California State University, [Executive Order 1061](#) Graduation Requirements in United States History, Constitution, and American Ideals.

California State University, [CSU General Education Breadth Requirements](#).

California State University and University of California, [Guiding Notes for General Education Course Review](#) (September 2022).

Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates, [Cal-GETC Standards](#) version 1.1 (December 2023).

Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates, [IGETC Standards, Policies, and Procedures](#)