

## **FAQ on the Revisions to EO 1100 Revised August 23, 2017 CSU General Education Breadth**

The following list of commonly raised questions and Chancellor's Office responses is provided with the release of Executive Order 1100 Revised August 23, 2017 *CSU General Education Breadth Requirements*. Questions have been received through consultation and survey feedback from faculty, students and administrators. This document is organized according to the EO structure, to assist in cross-referencing. A summary of revisions made to the general education (GE) EO appears at the end of this document. All requirements refer exclusively to baccalaureate-level learning.

### **Article 1. Applicability**

#### **1. When do these changes take effect?**

The policy is effective fall 2018 and applies to students enrolling in fall 2018 and subsequent terms who: (1) have not previously been enrolled continuously at a campus of the CSU or the California Community Colleges (CCC) and (2) who have not satisfied lower-division general education requirements according to the provisions of Title 5 Sections 40405.2 or 40405.3. Students subject to earlier catalog years may elect to change their catalog year and be subject to the new GE requirements as well as current major degree program requirements and campus graduation requirements.

#### **2. Can we delay implementation until fall 2019 to give us more time for the curricular changes we need to carry out?**

It would be difficult to justify delaying the benefits afforded by these policy changes, which increase opportunities for student success and facilitate efficient degree completion. Student-supportive policy changes include:

- Intermediate Algebra is no longer required as the uniform prerequisite for all courses in CSU General Education Breadth Area B4 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning.
- Approved GE Area B4 courses may now include non-algebra intensive courses such as game theory, statistics pathways, statistics for majors, computer science and personal finance, for example.
- Major courses and campus-wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirement.
- To facilitate efficient degree completion systemwide, 48 semester units<sup>1</sup> is set as both the minimum and maximum for total GE units. Stand-alone one-unit GE laboratory courses may increase the maximum to 49 units. (See question #17);
- To ensure efficient completion of lower-division certification and transfer from CCC campuses, coupled with efficient degree completion at the CSU, this policy clarifies that the nine units of upper-division GE courses are taught only in Areas B, C and D.

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<sup>1</sup> One semester unit is equivalent to 1.5 quarter units.

## Article 2. Fulfilling CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

### **3. Can California State Universities (CSU) certify GE completion (either complete certification or subject-area certification) in the same way the California Community Colleges (CCC) do?**

Yes, policy now allows certification of lower-division GE Areas satisfactorily completed at any CSU campus. Such lower-division certification ensures that students shall not be held to any additional lower-division GE requirements, mirroring the certification process between CCC and CSU campuses.

Upper-division GE courses completed at one CSU campus shall fulfill the same requirement at any other CSU campus and shall be applied toward the student's residency requirement.

### **4. What are "Golden Four" GE courses?**

Courses in GE Subareas A1, (oral communication in the English language), A2 (written communication in the English language), A3 (critical thinking) and B4 (mathematics/quantitative reasoning) are sometimes referred to as the "Golden Four" or "Basic Skills" courses. They are required for transfer admission to the CSU, and each of the four courses must be passed with a minimum grade of C-, per Title 5 Section 40803.

### **5. Can a CSU campus that requires a minimum C grade for GE courses, other than the Golden Four, require a student to repeat a transferred GE course for which a C-, or lower, is earned?**

No, satisfactory completion of a GE course on one campus shall be recognized as satisfied at any other CSU campus. However, if the course is also required for the major, and the major requires a higher minimum grade, the course shall satisfy the GE requirement but not the major requirement.

### **6. If the Golden Four require a minimum C- grade to satisfy CSU GE requirements, can students take those courses for Credit/No Credit?**

GE policy does not prohibit students from satisfying the Golden Four requirements with a Credit grades as long as the "CR" represents a letter grade of C- or better. However, we recommend that students take these courses for a letter grade as some majors may require letter grades in all required courses.

### **7. Why are the upper-division GE units restricted to Areas B, C and D?**

This clarification of existing requirements reflects the organization of 48 units of CSU GE Breadth, with 39 units in lower-division certification and the remaining 9 units left for upper-division completion. The upper- and lower-division units coordinate with the number of units required in Areas A through E, as shown in the following chart.

	Semester units required for transfer (ADT & full certification)	Semester units required for CSU GE Breadth	Semester units remaining after transfer
<b>Area A</b>	9	9	0
<b>Area B</b>	9	12	3
<b>Area C</b>	9	12	3
<b>Area D</b>	9	12	3
<b>Area E</b>	3	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9</b>

Lower-division certification includes 9 lower-division semester units each in Areas A, B, C and D and 3 lower-division semester units in Area E, which totals 39 of the 48 units required. Following completion of the first 39 units at a CSU or community college, the remaining 9 semester units (of the total 48 GE units required) reside in Areas B, C and D—the only Areas that require a total of 12 units each—3 units each beyond lower-division certification. These 9 units coincide with the 9 semester-units of upper-division GE required at the CSU. (See Attachment A of EO 1100 Revised for an illustration of this distribution.)

**8. When should a CSU student take upper-division GE courses?**

In most cases, upper-division GE courses should be restricted to students who have completed 60 semester units or more. This protects the integrity of the increasing complexity of degree requirements, and it conserves upper-division courses for the graduating seniors whose degree completion could be slowed without access to required upper-division GE courses. At the same time, the CSU has committed to providing the courses students need, when they need them. There may be cases in which students with fewer than 60 units may need to enroll in an upper-division GE course to continue making full-time progress toward degree completion. At a minimum, students shall be required to have satisfactorily completed the Golden Four courses (written communication, oral communication, critical thinking and mathematics/quantitative reasoning) before enrolling in upper-division GE courses.

**9. Are there software approaches to preventing a student from enrolling in upper-division GE courses without first having completed one course each in GE Areas A1, A2, A3 and B4?**

Yes, the campus Office of Admissions and Records or the Office of the Registrar could edit the prerequisites for upper-division GE courses to include the completion of courses in GE subareas A1, A2, A3 and B4. If additional assistance is required, you may contact Dr. April Grommo, Director of Enrollment Management Services, at 562-951-4726 or [agrommo@calstate.edu](mailto:agrommo@calstate.edu).

**10. Is “double counting” of GE courses required?**

Yes, campuses may no longer prohibit the double counting of GE requirements and other requirements. Major required courses that are approved for GE credit and courses and campus-

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

**11. Will the transfer of upper-division GE courses dilute CSU campus distinctiveness?**

No, historically this has not been the case because the transfer of upper-division students from one CSU to another is extremely rare. Of the 419,622 degree-seeking undergraduates enrolled in fall 2016, only 463, or .1%, had transferred from one CSU campus to another that fall. Essentially all students who graduate from a particular CSU campus have taken their 9 upper-division GE semester units at the home campus.

**12. If a campus has a service learning, GVAR or other all-campus requirement that is completed as part of GE, can the campus continue this practice?**

No, there is no upper-division Area A allowed in CSU policy. Campus GE requirements need to conform to the Area requirements and 48 semester-unit limit (or 49 semester units as described in Article 4 Area B). Campus-wide requirements may continue double counting with GE requirements.

**13. If a campus GE program requires an Area beyond those required in the EO, does the campus need to discontinue the additional campus-specific GE Area?**

If a campus has added a required GE course or Area not specified in the CSU GE Breadth requirements, the campus could discontinue the required course. Alternatively, the campus could retain the course but move it out of GE, if the total degree requirements will not exceed 120 units (or the unit total approved by Chancellor White in 2014).

**Article 3. Premises of CSU General Education Breadth**

**14. Can a CSU campus refuse to accept a GE course from another CSU (or from a CCC or other regionally accredited institution) if the course was taught online?**

No, course modality is not to be considered when evaluating courses for transfer. GE requirements may be satisfied through courses taught in face-to-face, hybrid, or completely online modalities. Pursuant to California Education Code Section 66763, a course provided entirely online 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.

**Article 4. Subject Area Distribution**

**15. Can courses that meet the requirements of CSU GE Subarea B4 have a prerequisite?**

Yes, the new policy allows CSU faculty to specify the prerequisites relevant to each GE math or quantitative reasoning course.

Courses in Subarea B4 shall allow students to 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 practice, it will be important for students to be advised to take a Subarea B4 course that is appropriate for their major. For some majors, this will require a mathematics class such as calculus, which may have a mathematics prerequisite.

Courses meeting the GE mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirement may include traditional mathematics (e.g., algebra, trigonometry and calculus) as well as statistics. Additionally, GE math/quantitative reasoning options now may include—for example—personal finance, statistics for specific majors, game theory or computer science, which may not be exclusively algebra based. The change allows students more flexibility in completing their bachelor's degrees, and more opportunities to apply mathematical and quantitative reasoning to the world around them.

**16. The Quantitative Reasoning Task Force (QRTF) recommended specific GE mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirements. Why are those not included in the revised policy?**

In defining the Subarea B4 requirement, the revised EO embraces the fundamental principles of the *QRTF Report* recommended definition, while keeping within the language conventions for EO 1100 Area definitions. The Academic Senate General Education Task Force (GETF) may discuss recommendations that fall outside the scope of this revision project (clarification, ensuring equity and facilitating efficient degree completion).

**17. Can our campus have 49 units of GE if we require a 4 semester-unit lecture-and-laboratory course? Can we require 49 units if we require a 3 semester-unit B1 or B2 science lecture course and a related stand-alone one-unit laboratory course?**

Yes, while it is expected that campuses could satisfy the laboratory experience requirement with a 3-unit lecture course with an integrated laboratory experience, campuses may require another one semester-unit for a laboratory experience (class). See Article 4, Area B of EO 1100 Revised for a full explanation.

**18. Can any GE course exceed the unit count required for a Subarea?**

Higher-unit GE courses may not be required, but GE courses bearing higher units may be allowed to satisfy GE Area or Subarea requirements. Major courses that double count toward satisfaction of a GE Subarea may carry a higher unit than the Subarea requires, but students need to be given the option of completing a lower-unit GE course. The most efficient path to degree completion may be through taking, for example, a 5-unit biology major course that also satisfies the B2 and B3 GE Subareas. Compared to taking the 5-unit biology major course and a separate 3-unit B2 GE course and 1-unit B3 GE course, the student who double counts the GE course with the major requirement would save four units.

## Article 5. Transfer and Articulation

### 19. What is an “eligible institution” for articulation?

Any regionally accredited institution or international higher education institution legally authorized to deliver postsecondary instruction in their country is eligible for course articulation with CSU campuses.

### 20. Can CSU campuses articulate GE courses with institutions other than CCCs?

Yes. Article 5 “Transfer and Articulation” in the executive order refers to the annual CSU GE Breadth and Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) review process that is shared among the CCC, CSU and University of California systems. CSU campuses may continue to articulate courses with all eligible institutions in the same manner they do now.

### 21. Can a student transfer CCC courses to the CSU to meet upper-division GE requirements?

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

### 22. Can students transferring to the CSU with an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) be required to take additional lower-division GE courses?

No, a student who transfers to the CSU with a CCC Associate of Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) is fully certified for 39 units of lower-division CSU GE and *cannot be held to additional lower-division GE requirements*. ADT transfer students are obligated to complete the nine semester units of upper-division GE courses that are part of the 60 CSU semester units required to complete the CSU degree.

### 23. What is “GE for STEM” within ADTs?

To accommodate the high number of lower-division major preparation courses required in some STEM majors, students pursuing certain ADTs may be eligible to take GE Breadth for STEM. This allows them to defer taking two lower-division GE courses (one in Area C and one in Area D) until after transfer. See Article 5.3.5 of EO 1100 Revised for details.

### 24. Which exams may be used for GE course certification?

Satisfactory scores on external examinations, like Advanced Placement, may be used to award GE credit and to certify satisfaction of GE Sub-areas. Coded memo [ASA-2017-13](#) provides the current list of GE units to be awarded for specified examination scores. The list is updated on an annual basis. In addition, course-based challenge exams completed at one CSU campus for a CSU GE course shall be recognized at all other CSU campuses. For more information concerning credit-by-examination policy, see [EO 1036](#) Systemwide Admission Eligibility and/or Baccalaureate Credit Awarded for External Examinations, Experiential Learning, and Instruction in Non-Collegiate Settings.

## Article 6. Implementation and Governance

### 25. Why are courses that have not been taught within a five-year period supposed to have GE status removed?

Concerns have been raised that the number of GE course offerings on some CSU campuses is overwhelming to students, causing confusion when students try to select courses to satisfy GE requirements. The five-year period allows for regular campus review and adjustments.

### 26. Are CSU campuses required to include students on the campus-wide GE committee?

Yes, it is required to include students on campus GE committees. Additionally, administrators and other staff members may serve on campus GE committees. However, in all cases the majority of the committee membership shall remain instructional faculty.

### Summary of Changes to EO 1100\*

Section	Revision
2.1	Changes the term “CSU GE pathways” to “CSU GE patterns.”
2.2.1	Sets the required semester units for GE Breadth at 48 as both a minimum and maximum, while allowing 49 semester units to reflect practice of requiring a 4 semester unit lecture/lab course or a 1 semester-unit lab course on some campuses. Required laboratory units have often not appeared in GE unit totals.
2.2.2	Establishes minimum C- grade requirements for oral communication, written communication, critical thinking and mathematics/quantitative reasoning, per Title 5.
2.2.3	Clarifies when students should enroll in upper-division GE courses.
2.2.3 and 4	Clarifies that the 9 semester units required at the upper division must be taken in Areas B, C, and D. Some campuses currently require upper-division GE in other areas, which can cause students to take more units than should be the case.
2.2.4	Requires that 9 semester units of upper-division GE shall be taken in the CSU.
2.2.6.1	Institutionalizes double counting for efficient degree completion. Major courses and campus-wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirement.
2.2.6.2	Campuses are encouraged to allow the double counting of the 6 semester units of American Institutions with GE Area D Social Science.
2.2.1.c and 5.6.2.a	Specifies binding completion. Once a GE requirement is satisfied, students shall not be required to satisfy it again, even if the student were to change campus or major.
3.2	Clarifies that GE courses may be taught in all modalities (e.g., face-to-face, online, and hybrid) formats.
3.3	Removes the long list of LEAP information, replaced with a link.
(formerly 3.4 in previous EO version)	Removes the section on entry-level skills and remediation, as this policy exclusively addresses general education and not admission or remediation requirements.

<b>4</b>	Removes the Intermediate Algebra prerequisite from math/quantitative reasoning Subarea B4 and adds language describing this requirement. Sample course titles are given as examples of the expanded vision for satisfying the mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirement.
<b>4</b>	Specifies additional appropriate course content for Area E (e.g., information literacy and student success strategies), while personal finance is removed from this Area.
<b>5.3.4</b>	Adds information regarding GE for students who earn ADTs.
<b>5.6</b>	Clarifies reciprocity among CSU campuses for GE courses.
<b>6.2.1.c.1</b>	Requires campuses to provide sufficient sections of GE Subarea A2 written communication and B4 mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses to support completion of these requirements within the first year of freshman enrollment.
<b>6.2.1.c.1</b>	Adds requirement to remove GE status for GE courses not offered within a five-year period.

\*This chart does not reflect all modifications. For example, stylistic changes, numbering changes and reorganization of elements do not appear in this chart.

### **Need further assistance?**

Contact Dr. Alison Wrynn, State University Associate Dean, Academic Programs at 562-951-4603 or [awrynn@calstate.edu](mailto:awrynn@calstate.edu).



**Attachment A**  
**Requirements for Lower- and Upper-Division**  
**California State University General Education Breadth**

GE Area	Lower-Division Semester Units	Upper-Division Semester Units	Total Semester Units* Required
<b>Area A English Language Communication and Critical Thinking</b>			
One course in each Subarea			
A1 Oral Communication			
A2 Written Communication			
A3 Critical Thinking			
<b>Area A total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Area B Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning</b>			
One course in each Subarea			
B1 Physical Science			
B2 Life Science			
B3 Laboratory Activity - associated with the course taken to satisfy either B1 or B2			
B 4 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning			
<b>Area B total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area C Arts and Humanities</b>			
At least one course in each Subarea			
C1 Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theatre			
C2 Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English			
<b>Area C total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area D Social Sciences</b>			
<b>Area D total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area E Lifelong Learning and Self-Development</b>			
<b>Area E total semester units required:</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Total GE Units Required</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>48</b>

**Note:**

Students who transfer to the CSU with an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) or full CSU GE certification, have completed required 39 lower-division GE semester units. This includes 9 lower-

division semester units each in Areas A, B, C and D, and 3 lower-division semester units in Area E. Their remaining required 9 semester units fall into CSU GE Areas B, C and D, and are to be taken at the upper-division level.

\*To determine unit requirements at quarter-based campuses, multiply the semester unit requirement by 1.5.

## **FAQ on the Revisions to EO 1100 Revised August 23, 2017 CSU General Education Breadth**

### **Implications for the California Community Colleges**

The following list of commonly raised questions and Chancellor's Office responses is provided with the release of Executive Order 1100 Revised August 23, 2017 *CSU General Education Breadth Requirements*. This document is organized according to the EO structure, to assist in cross-referencing and highlights issues that may be of particular interest to California Community Colleges (CCC). A summary of revisions made to the EO that are relevant to transfer and articulation, appears at the end of this document. All requirements refer exclusively to baccalaureate-level learning.

#### **Article 1. Applicability**

##### **1. When do these changes take effect?**

The policy is effective fall 2018 and applies to students enrolling in fall 2018 and subsequent terms who: (1) have not previously been enrolled continuously at a campus of the CSU or CCC and (2) who have not satisfied lower-division general education requirements according to the provisions of Title 5 Sections 40405.2 or 40405.3. Students subject to earlier catalog years may elect to change their catalog year and be subject to the new GE requirements as well as current major degree program requirements and campus graduation requirements.

##### **2. Can the CSU delay implementation until fall 2019 to give more time for the required curricular changes?**

It would be difficult to justify delaying the benefits afforded by these policy changes, which increase opportunities for student success and facilitate efficient degree completion. Student-supportive policy changes include:

- Intermediate Algebra is no longer required as the uniform prerequisite for all courses in CSU General Education Breadth (GE) Area B4 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning.
- Approved GE Area B4 courses may now include non-algebra intensive courses such as game theory, statistics pathways, statistics for majors, computer science and personal finance, for example.
- To facilitate efficient degree completion systemwide, 48 semester units<sup>1</sup> is set as both the minimum and maximum for total GE units. Stand-alone one-unit GE B3 laboratory courses may increase the maximum to 49 units. (See question #8).
  - For the CCC this means 39 lower-division semester units, with 40 allowed for the inclusion of stand-alone one-unit GE B3 laboratory courses or 4 semester unit combinations of B3 included in a B1 or B2 course. See Article 4, Area B of EO 1100 for a full explanation of this process.

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<sup>1</sup> One semester unit is equivalent to 1.5 quarter units.

## Article 2. Fulfilling CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

### 3. What are the “Golden Four” GE courses?

Courses in GE Subareas A1, (oral communication in the English language), A2 (written communication in the English language), A3 (critical thinking) and B4 (mathematics/quantitative reasoning) are sometimes referred to as the “Golden Four” or “Basic Skills” courses. They are required for transfer admission to the CSU, and each of the four courses must be passed with a minimum grade of C-, per Title 5 Section 40803.

### 4. If the Golden Four require a minimum C- grade to satisfy CSU GE requirements, can students take those courses for Pass/No Pass?

GE policy does not prohibit students from satisfying the Golden Four requirements with Pass grades as long as the “P” represents a letter grade of C- or better. However, we recommend that students take these courses for a letter grade as some impacted majors and campuses may require letter grades in all required courses as a function of determining admission.

## Article 3. Premises of CSU General Education Breadth

### 5. Can a CSU campus refuse to accept a GE course from another CSU (or from a CCC or other regionally accredited institution) if the course was taught online?

No, course modality is not to be considered when evaluating courses for transfer. GE requirements may be satisfied through courses taught in all modalities (e.g., face-to-face, hybrid, or completely online).

## Article 4. Subject Area Distribution

### 6. What are the changes within Areas A-E?

#### *Summary of changes by Area*

- **Area A:** No substantive changes. There continues to be no prohibition against teaching courses in Subarea A1 Oral Communication in any modality. (See 3.3 of EO 1100)
- **Area B:** Two changes were made within Area B.
  - The intermediate algebra prerequisite was dropped as a required uniform prerequisite for all Subarea B4 courses. Traditional mathematics courses, like College Algebra and Calculus, will continue to have prerequisites. The change will allow for additional types of courses to be proposed for CSU GE Breadth certification review including, computer science, game theory, and personal finance, for example (see question #7 below). ***Further information regarding Subarea B4 will be distributed this fall.***
  - The revised policy allows for an additional unit of GE, if needed, in Subarea B3 (see question #8 below). 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 GE semester units shall not exceed 40 semester units.

- **Area C:** No changes.
- **Area D:** Provides clarification that courses shall be taken in “2 different disciplines.” This could include a combination, for example, of a course in criminal justice and a second in political science. The deciding factor is not what departments house these courses but rather the academic discipline under which the course is taught.
- **Area E:** Allows for content in student success strategies or information literacy in Area E courses and removes courses in personal finance. *Personal finance courses that are currently approved for Area E will have their GE status removed effective fall 2018. You may resubmit revised personal finance courses for Subarea B4 consideration (see question #7 below) during the 2017-2018 CSU GE Breadth/IGETC review period.* The overall requirement remains that courses in Area E focus on students as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings, as does the prohibition against courses that focus solely on skill development.

**7. Can courses that meet the requirements of CSU GE Subarea B4 have a prerequisite?**

Yes, courses in this Subarea shall include a prerequisite reflective only of skills and knowledge required in the course.

Courses in Subarea B4 shall allow students to demonstrate the abilities to reason quantitatively, practice computational skills, and explain and apply mathematical or quantitative reasoning concepts to solve problems. In practice, it will be important for students to be advised to take a Subarea B4 course that is appropriate for their major. For some majors, this may require a mathematics class (such as calculus), that may have a mathematics prerequisite.

Courses meeting the GE mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirement may include traditional mathematics (e.g., algebra, trigonometry and calculus) as well as statistics. Additionally, GE math/quantitative reasoning options now may include personal finance, statistics for specific majors, game theory or computer science, which may not be exclusively algebra based. The change allows students more flexibility in completing their bachelor’s degrees, and more opportunities to apply mathematical and quantitative reasoning to the world around them.

*This fall we will provide further detail on the CSU GE Breadth review of courses.*

**8. Can a CCC campus have 40 lower-division units of GE if we require a 4 semester-unit lecture-and-laboratory course? Can we require 40 lower-division semester units if we require a 3 semester-unit B1 or B2 science lecture course and a related stand-alone one-unit laboratory course?**

Yes, it is expected that campuses could offer the laboratory experience within:

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

In the latter two cases, the total number of GE lower-division semester (or equivalent quarter) units shall not exceed 40 semester (or equivalent quarter) units. See Article 4, Area B of EO 1100 for a full explanation.

## **Article 5. Transfer and Articulation**

### **9. What is an “eligible institution” for articulation?**

“Eligible” means any institution accredited by a recognized U.S. Department of Education regional accrediting agency or any international higher education institution legally authorized to deliver postsecondary instruction in their country is eligible for course articulation with CSU campuses.

### **10. Can CSU and CCC campuses articulate GE courses with institutions other than CCCs?**

Yes. Article 5 “Transfer and Articulation” in the executive order refers to the annual CSU GE Breadth and Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) review process that is shared among the CCC, CSU and University of California systems. CSU and CCC campuses may continue to articulate courses with all eligible institutions in the same manner they do now. This includes the current practice of “passing-along” general education courses that were completed with a passing grade at a:

- a) CSU before enrolling in a CCC; or
- b) UC campus or other regionally accredited college or university. In these two instances, the course shall be reviewed by the CCC articulation office to determine if the course is comparable to current CSU GE Breadth/IGETC standards.

### **11. Can students transferring to the CSU with an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) be required to take additional lower-division GE courses?**

No, a student who transfers to the CSU with a CCC Associate of Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) is fully certified for 39-40 units of lower-division CSU GE and cannot be held to additional lower-division GE requirements.

### **12. What is “CSU GE Breadth for STEM” within ADTs?**

To accommodate the high number of lower-division major preparation courses required in some STEM majors, students pursuing certain ADTs may be eligible to take GE Breadth for STEM. This allows them to defer taking two lower-division GE courses (one in Area C and one in Area D) until after transfer. See EO 1100 Article 5.3.5 for details.

### **13. What will be the impact on the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) now that Subarea B4 has been revised?**

All TMCs will need to undergo a review to ensure that the mathematics/quantitative reasoning course that is recommended for the TMC continues to be appropriate under the revised policy.

*This fall we will provide details on the review of TMC as a result of the change in Subarea B4.*

### **14. Which exams may be used for GE course certification?**

Satisfactory scores on external examinations (like Advanced Placement) may be used to award GE credit and to certify satisfaction of GE Subareas. Coded memo [ASA-2017-13](#) provides the current list of GE units to be awarded for specified examination scores. The list is updated on an annual basis.

## Article 6. Implementation and Governance

*This Article relates only to the CSU.*

### Summary of Changes\* to EO 1100 Relevant to Articulation and Transfer

Section	Revision
2.1	Changes the term “CSU GE pathways” to “CSU GE patterns.”
2.2.1	Sets the required semester units for GE Breadth at 48 as both a minimum and maximum while allowing 49 semester units to reflect practice of requiring a 4 semester unit lecture/lab course or a 1 semester-unit lab course on some campuses. Required laboratory units have often not appeared in GE unit totals.
2.2.2	Establishes minimum C- grade requirements for oral communication, written communication, critical thinking and mathematics/quantitative reasoning, per Title 5.
3.2	Clarifies that GE courses may be taught in all modalities (e.g., face-to-face, online, and hybrid) formats.
3.3	Removes the long list of LEAP information, replaced with a link.
(formerly 3.4 in previous EO version)	Removes the section on entry-level skills and remediation, as this policy exclusively addresses general education and not admission or remediation requirements.
4	Removes the Intermediate Algebra prerequisite from math/quantitative reasoning Subarea B4 and adds language describing this requirement. Sample course titles are given as examples of the expanded vision for satisfying the mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirement.
4	Specifies additional appropriate course content for Area E (e.g., information literacy and student success strategies), while personal finance is removed from this Area.
5.3.4	Adds information regarding GE for students who earn ADTs.

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### Need further assistance?

Contact Dr. Alison Wrynn, State University Associate Dean, Academic Programs at 562-951-4603 or awrynn@calstate.edu.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



BAKERSFIELD

August 23, 2017

CHANNEL ISLANDS

**MEMORANDUM**

CHICO

TO: CSU Presidents

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

FROM: Timothy P. White  
Chancellor

EAST BAY

FRESNO

SUBJECT: General Education Breadth Requirements  
Executive Order 1100 Revised August 23, 2017

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

Attached is a copy of Executive Order 1100 Revised August 23, 2017 relating to the California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE Breadth) requirements. This policy supersedes Executive Order 1100, which was issued on February 16, 2015. The policy incorporates changes recommended by faculty, students, administrators and the Academic Senate CSU regarding how systemwide GE policy can better: (1) clarify requirements, (2) ensure equitable opportunity for student success, and (3) streamline graduation requirements. Additionally, the revised executive order includes a revised definition for mathematics/quantitative reasoning (CSU GE Breadth Subarea B4), in response to recommendations from a variety of sources.

LONG BEACH

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In accordance with California State University policy, the campus president has the responsibility for implementing executive orders where applicable and for maintaining the campus repository and index for all executive orders.

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

If you have questions regarding this executive order please contact the Academic Programs and Policy department at [APP@calstate.edu](mailto:APP@calstate.edu) or 562-951-4603.

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**Attachments**

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**Executive Order:** 1100 Revised August 23, 2017  
**Effective Date:** August 23, 2017  
**Supersedes:** Executive Order 1100 Effective February 16, 2015  
**Title:** CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

This executive order is issued pursuant to Education Code 66763, 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).

This executive order 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 executive order. This executive order is effective for students subject to the fall 2018 and subsequent catalog years.

This document also addresses:

- **Applicability of the policy (Article 1, page 1),**
- **Patterns that fulfill General Education requirements (Article 2, page 2),**
- **Premises of CSU General Education Breadth (Article 3, page 5),**
- **Distribution of General Education Breadth units (Article 4, page 6),**
- **Transfer and articulation (Article 5, page 9),**
- **Implementation and governance (Article 6, page 16).**

## **Article 1. Applicability**

### **1.1 Prior to Completion of CSU Lower-Division General Education Breadth Requirements**

The requirements, policies and procedures adopted pursuant to this executive order are effective for students subject to the fall 2018 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.

**1.2 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**

**2.1 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.

**2.2 CSU Systemwide Requirements**

**2.2.1 General Education Requirements**

- a. CSU campus GE requirements shall conform to the requirements established in this executive order 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.

- 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 E, 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.

### **2.2.2 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.

### **2.2.3 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 may require no more than 9 upper-division GE semester units (or the quarter equivalent).

### **2.2.4 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.

### **2.2.5 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. Each campus is authorized to make reasonable adjustments in the number of units assigned to any of the five required distribution Areas (A through E). The total number of GE units required shall not be fewer or greater than 48 semester units or 72 quarter units. Except when 49 semester (74 quarter) units is allowed as described in Article 4, Area B.

### **2.2.6 Double Counting**

#### **2.2.6.1 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.

**2.2.6.2 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**

**3.1 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, civic engagement, communication competence, ethical decision-making, environmental systems, technology, lifelong learning and self-development, and physical and emotional health throughout a lifetime.

**3.2 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.

**3.3 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.*

<b>A1</b>	<b>Oral Communication</b>	(3 semester units or 4 quarter units)
<b>A2</b>	<b>Written Communication</b>	(3 semester units or 4 quarter units)
<b>A3</b>	<b>Critical Thinking</b>	(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-credit 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 GE semester units shall not exceed 49 (74 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**

*At least one course completed in each of these 2 Subareas, and 3 additional semester units (4 quarter units) at the upper-division in one of the following Subareas.*

**C1 Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater**

**C2 Humanities: 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**

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

*At least two courses completed in 2 different disciplines, and 3 additional semester units (4 quarter units) at the upper-division.*

Area D requires 12 semester units or 18 quarter units dealing with human social, political and economic institutions and behavior, and their historical background.



Students shall complete courses from at least two different disciplines, and 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, 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.

**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.

**5.1 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.

**5.2 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 executive order 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.

### **5.3. Certification Requirements**

#### **5.3.1 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.

#### **5.3.2 Full Certification**

##### **5.3.2.1 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.

##### **5.3.2.2 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.

##### **5.3.2.3 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, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), with courses from at least two different disciplines.
- e. Area E, 3 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).

### **5.3.3 Lower-Division Subject-Area (Partial) Certification**

#### **5.3.3.1 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.

#### **5.3.3.2 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 five Subject Areas—A through E.

#### **5.3.3.3 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.

#### **5.3.3.4 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, 9 semester units (or the quarter equivalent), with courses taken from at least two disciplines.
- e. For Area E, 3 semester units (or the quarter equivalent).

**5.3.4 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 lower-division GE requirements.

**5.3.5 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, and E of the traditional GE curriculum; and
- b. One course in Area C1 Arts and one course in Area C2 Humanities; and
- c. Two courses in Area D from two different disciplines.

Details of each Transfer Model Curriculum are maintained and published at [www.c-id.net](http://www.c-id.net).

### **5.3.6 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.

## **5.4 Certification of Courses and Examinations**

### **5.4.1 Qualification for Certification**

A CCC may certify completion of courses or examinations taken at other eligible institutions, provided that all such courses and examinations would be identified for certification purposes by the institution offering them.

**5.4.2** If so identified, those courses and examinations shall contribute to qualification of a student for either full certification or subject-area certification, as appropriate.

**5.4.3** CCC may include upper-division courses taken at an eligible university in certification of lower-division CSU GE or IGETC.

## **5.5 Limitations of Certification**

### **5.5.1 Restriction to General Education Requirements**

Neither full certification nor subject-area certification exempts students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements that

may exist outside of the GE program of the campus awarding the degree.

## **5.5.2 Maximum Number of Credits Allowed**

### **5.5.2.1 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.

### **5.5.2.2 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.)

## **5.6 General Education Certification Reciprocity Among CSU Campuses**

### **5.6.1 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.

### **5.6.2 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.

**5.6.3 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.

**5.6.4 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**

**6.1 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. Review and propose revisions to the objectives, requirements, and implementation of CSU GE policy to ensure high-quality general education.
- b. Study GE policies and practices inside and outside the system and, as appropriate, stimulate intersegmental discussion of GE policy and curricula.
- c. 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.
- d. Report as appropriate to the chancellor.

## **6.2 Campus Responsibility**

### **6.2.1 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. Courses approved for GE that have not been offered within a five-year period shall have GE status removed.

**6.2.2 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 executive order. 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 executive order.

**6.2.3 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 at least the minimum required GE credits, 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).

**6.2.4 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 Subarea.

**6.2.5 General Education Review and Assessment**

In accordance with WASC Senior College and University Commission 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.



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Timothy P. White, Chancellor

Dated: August 23, 2017

**Requirements for  
Lower- and Upper-Division  
California State University General Education Breadth**

GE Area	Lower-Division Semester Units	Upper-Division Semester Units	Total Semester Units* Required
<b>Area A English Language Communication and Critical Thinking</b>			
One course in each Subarea			
A1 Oral Communication			
A2 Written Communication			
A3 Critical Thinking			
<b>Area A total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Area B Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning</b>			
One course in each Subarea			
B1 Physical Science			
B2 Life Science			
B3 Laboratory Activity - associated with the course taken to satisfy either B1 or B2			
B 4 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning			
<b>Area B total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area C Arts and Humanities</b>			
At least one course in each Subarea			
C1 Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theatre			
C2 Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English			
<b>Area C total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area D Social Sciences</b>			
<b>Area D total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area E Lifelong Learning and Self- Development</b>			
<b>Area E total semester units required:</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Total GE Units</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>48</b>

**Note:**

Students who transfer to the CSU with an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) or full CSU GE certification, have completed the required lower-division 39 GE semester units. This includes 9 lower-division semester units each in Areas A, B, C and D, and 3 lower-division semester units in Area E. Their remaining required 9 semester units fall into CSU GE Areas B, C and D, and are to be taken at the upper-division level.

\*To determine unit requirements at quarter-based campuses, multiply the semester unit requirement by 1.5.