

General Education

General Education Administrative Policies

1. General education courses may be used to satisfy requirements for both general education requirements and the major, minor, and program emphases, where applicable.
2. Departments or colleges may preclude their students from double counting general education courses with major courses.
3. Except for courses that meet the cultural diversity, global perspectives, or digital literacy requirements, no course can fulfill the requirements for more than one general education category.
4. General education requirements can be met through credit by exam, departmental examinations, or equivalents.
5. General education requirements can be met by successful completion of a course for which an approved general education course in the same department is a prerequisite or by successful completion of an advanced course in the same department with comparable course content.
6. Except for courses offered only on a pass/fail basis, no courses taken to meet the general education requirements may be taken for pass/fail grades. (Exception for Spring and Fall 2020: Students were allowed to complete general education requirements with a pass grade.)
7. The general education minimum requirements apply to all baccalaureate degree programs.
8. Transfer students who have only partially fulfilled general education category requirements by transfer-approved courses must complete the requirements in approved courses within the NDSU deficient categories. No category credit requirement may be deficient by more than a partial semester credit. However, in the communication category, if the transfer course(s) have been evaluated as equivalent to ENGL 110 College Composition I, ENGL 120 College Composition II, and COMM 110 Fundamentals of Public Speaking and total no less than eight semester credits, the lower-division category requirement has been met.
9. Students may receive placement credit for ENGL 110 College Composition I based on a minimum English ACT score (or SAT equivalent) and satisfactory performance (grade of 'C' or better) in ENGL 120 College Composition II or equivalent.
10. A student who has completed an associate of arts or an associate of science degree in the United States or Canada at a regionally accredited institution and who transfers to NDSU or who pursues a second baccalaureate degree at NDSU is considered to have completed his or her lower-division general education requirements at NDSU. Transfer student coursework from outside the United States and Canada will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis.
11. General education courses at other accredited institutions, which do not have equivalent courses or general education status at NDSU, may be accepted in transfer as part of the general education requirements at NDSU.
12. All general education course syllabi and course web sites must identify the course as having been approved for meeting general education requirements and include the general education outcomes for which each course is approved. (See Syllabus Requirements (https://www.ndsu.edu/facultysenate/committees_1/ucc/syllabus_information/))
13. Students who have completed basic military training (which is the commitment for enlistment) will receive a waiver for the Wellness category. Military record documentation is required for the waiver; documentation is to be submitted to the Office of Registration and Records with a completed Appeal for Exception to General Education Requirements form. The waiver for the training will not lead to course credit, and all other minimum graduation requirements apply.
14. Military Services members that have been deployed to a foreign country for a minimum period of 90 consecutive days will be recognized as meeting Global Perspectives general education requirement. Additionally, services members will have satisfied the Cultural Diversity requirement for completing an additional 90 days of foreign deployment. A copy of the military deployment documentation can be submitted with a completed Appeal for Exception to General Education Requirements form.
15. Students must complete at least four credits of natural and physical sciences in the Science and Technology category. Also in this category, a student must complete a one-credit lab taken as a co-requisite with an approved general education science and technology lecture course, unless the approved science and technology course has an embedded lab experience equivalent to one-credit (ex. CHEM 117 & CHEM 117L; PLSC 110).