



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY 2.16

Statewide General Education Requirements

Approved 26 April 2001

Amended 25 March 2004; 23 May 2012

The Board of Regents recognizes that all undergraduate academic credentials should contain a broad-based common educational experience that enhances students' ability to describe, interpret, and analyze their world. In addition to building awareness of a wide range of material and enriching the academic experience, general education should promote intellectual inquiry through basic content and methodology and contribute to the graduate's ability to communicate effectively in oral and written English.

General education courses should provide an introduction to a discipline, as in a survey course that covers a wide range of material within a specific discipline or area of inquiry and acquaints students with a broad section of the information or skills available in that area, or an appreciation course that introduces students to a creative field and leads to a general understanding and appreciation of work by others.

Depending on the level of the academic credential awarded, education in composition, mathematics and analytical reasoning, natural sciences, humanities, social/behavioral sciences and fine arts is required as part of undergraduate degree and certificate curricula at state colleges and universities. (See the table of [Statewide General Education Requirements](#).) Specific course offerings may vary from one institution to another as the faculty at each campus designates courses that are to be included in the General Education inventory, but such courses share common characteristics essential to the study of academic disciplines.

English Composition. *Effective written communication skills are essential to prepare students to effectively and intelligently communicate in a variety of contexts.*

Mathematics/Analytical Reasoning. *As a cornerstone for the liberal arts, engineering, and sciences, mathematical/analytical reasoning skills are an essential component of all disciplines.*

Natural Sciences. *Natural sciences study both life and physical sciences in an approach to understanding the universe by studying objects, phenomena, laws of nature and the physical world.*

Humanities. *Humanities offer a broad-based study of cultural traditions and the human condition, including everything from language, literature and religion to history, philosophy and communication.*

Social/Behavioral Sciences. *Social and Behavioral Sciences study human behavior and the relationship between individuals and their societies.*

Fine Arts. *The Fine Arts provide an opportunity to explore and to value aesthetic creation and form*

as an essential means of conceiving and expressing the human experience.

In addition to specifics of this policy, all applicable general education requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges shall apply.

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- SAT
- EPAs

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- Academic Common Market (SREB)
- LOUISIANA TRANSFER DEGREE (LT)
- Master Course Articulation Matrix
- Policies & Procedures
- Teacher Education Initiatives
- Tracking Database

Statewide General Education Requirements

CTS - Certificate of Technical Studies; CAS - Certificate of Applied Science; TD - Technical Diploma; AAS - Associate of Applied Science; AA - Associate of Arts; AS - Associate of Science; A - Associate (non-designated); BAS - Bachelor of Applied Science; BA - Bachelor of Arts; BS - Bachelor of Science; B - Bachelor (non-designated).

	CTS	CAS	TD	AAS	AA	AS	A	BAS	BA	BS	B
English	0	3	0	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Math	0	3	0	3	3	6	3	6	6	6	6
Natural Sciences	0	0-3	0	3	6	6	6	9	9	9	9
Humanities	0	0-3	0	3	3	3	3	3	9	9	9
Fine Arts	0	0-3	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Social/Behavioral Sciences	0	0-3	0	3	6	3	6	6	6	6	6
Total	0	9	0	15	27	27	27	33	39	39	39

English. CAS and AAS degrees shall require the successful completion of at least three hours of English composition. AA, AS, A, BAS, BA, BS, and B degrees shall require the successful completion of at least six hours of English composition.

Mathematics/Analytical Reasoning (e.g., Mathematics, Statistics, Symbolic Logic). CAS, AAS, AA, and A degrees shall require the successful completion of at least three hours of Mathematics/Analytical Reasoning. AS, BAS, BA, BS, and B degrees shall require the successful completion of at least six hours of Mathematics/Analytical Reasoning.

Natural Sciences: Life Science (e.g., Biology, Biochemistry, Botany, Zoology) **and Physical Science** (e.g., Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Astronomy/Meteorology). The CAS may require, and AAS degrees shall require the successful completion at least three hours of any life or physical science. AA, AS, and A degrees shall require the successful completion at least six hours of natural science in any combination of life or physical science. BAS, BA, BS, and B degrees shall require the successful completion of at least nine hours of natural science, as follows: six hours shall be earned in a single life or physical science; the remaining three hours must be earned in a natural science area other than that previously selected (both life and physical sciences must be taken to fulfill this requirement).

Humanities (e.g., Literature, Foreign Languages, History, Classical Studies, Communications, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Interdisciplinary). The CAS may require, and the AAS, AA, AS, A and BAS degrees shall require the successful completion of at least three hours of Humanities. The BA, BS, and B degrees shall require the successful completion of at least nine hours of Humanities.

Fine Arts (e.g., Music, Visual Arts, Applied Arts, Theatre, Dance, Interdisciplinary). The CAS may require, and the AA, AS, A, BAS, BA, BS, and B degrees shall require the successful completion of at least three hours of Fine Arts.

Social Science (e.g., Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Economics, Geography, International Studies, Interdisciplinary, Political Science) **and Behavioral Science** (e.g., Psychology, Sociology). The CAS may require, and the AAS and AS degree shall require the successful completion of at least three hours of Social/Behavioral Sciences. The AA, A, BAS, BA, BS, and B degrees shall require the successful completion of at least six hours of Social/Behavioral Sciences.