

ESU GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

GENERAL EDUCATION  
PROGRAM

EAST STROUDSBURG  
UNIVERSITY

## General Education Program Statement of Purpose

The General Education Program at East Stroudsburg University is a set of interrelated courses that together provide experiences for students that might not otherwise be provided by their respective degree programs. By design, the program improves competencies, broadens perspectives, and nurtures students as they grow to become informed individuals, deliberate decision makers, and active members of the global society in which they live.

### Goals of the General Education Program

#### A. Perspectives and Competencies

Among the principal goals of the General Education Program at East Stroudsburg University are both the development of students' core competencies and the broadening of students' perspectives. In particular, the following mission statement has been adopted for the General Education Program:

Upon earning an undergraduate degree from East Stroudsburg University, students will value creativity, diversity, ethical behavior, and professionalism. Further, they will have achieved college-level proficiency in seven distinct university-wide student learning outcomes. In particular, they will be able to:

- I. Demonstrate an understanding of their role as citizens of a diverse, global society.
- II. Utilize critical thinking skills.
- III. Communicate orally, in writing, and through other formats.
- IV. Demonstrate information literacy and technological skills.
- V. Employ scientific reasoning and quantitative skills when analyzing the world in which they live.
- VI. Create and/or critique various forms of artistic expression.
- VII. Demonstrate understanding of and apply various models for the healthy development of the whole person.

#### B. General Knowledge

The General Education Program shall not achieve competencies by sacrificing breadth. Providing breadth of knowledge and breadth of experience to all students is an essential element of the university mission. The structure of the General Education Program is designed to ensure that such breadth of exposure is achieved.

## General Education Program Requirements

In order to satisfy the General Education Program requirements at East Stroudsburg University, a student must: (a) Complete the General Education Core Program and (b) Complete all Cognate Requirements.

### General Education Core Program (45 credits)

1. English Composition Requirement (3 credits): Students are required to successfully complete ENGL 103 within their first 45 credits of study at ESU. For the purposes of meeting this requirement, a grade of 'C' or better must be earned. Students that have not successfully completed ENGL 103 within their first 45 credits of study must enroll in ENGL 103 during each subsequent semester until the ENGL 103 requirement is satisfied. For such students, registration in courses beyond 45 credits will be frozen each semester until registration in ENGL 103 occurs.
2. First Year Experience Course Requirement (3 credits): Students are required to successfully complete a certified University wide First Year Experience course prior to the culmination of their first year of study at ESU. Students that have not successfully completed a certified University wide First Year Experience course during their first semester of study at ESU must enroll in one during their second semester of study at ESU. For such students, registration in second semester courses will be frozen until registration in a certified FYE course occurs. Transfer students who transfer at least 24 credits of coursework to ESU are exempted from the First Year Experience requirement.
3. Breadth Requirement (36 credits): Students must earn at least 12 credits in each of the following three areas: Group A: Arts & Letters, Group B: Science, and Group C: Social Science. Within each area, the 12 credits must be earned in at least four distinct categories. At least 3 credits from Group B must come from a course or courses for which "meeting the University Math Competency requirement" is a prerequisite.
4. SLO VII Requirement (3 credits): Students must complete a three credit course certified as meeting the SLO VII Standard. This course must be completed during their first 60 credits of study at ESU. Students that have not successfully completed such a course within their first 60 credits of study must enroll in such a course during each subsequent semester until the SLO VII requirement is satisfied. For such students, registration in courses beyond 60 credits will be frozen each semester until registration in a three credit course meeting the SLO VII Standard occurs.

## Cognate Requirements

1. Level II Writing Requirement: Students must complete at least one course designated as meeting GE Standard IXa (Level II Writing Standard) as described in Appendix A. Courses meeting this requirement must be at the 200 or 300 level, and must have ENGL 103 as a prerequisite. See Appendix A for additional requirements of the Standard. Such courses could be offered within students' major disciplines, or could be writing-intensive courses offered outside of students' major departments. Successful completion of a designated Level II Writing course in any discipline is sufficient to meet this requirement.
2. Level III Writing Requirement: Students must complete at least one course designated as meeting GE Standard IXb (Level III Writing Standard) as described in Appendix A. Courses meeting this requirement must be at the 300 or 400 level, and must have the successful completion of a designated Level II Writing Course as a prerequisite. See Appendix A for additional requirements of the Standard. Often, such courses would be offered within the students' major disciplines and would be required by their degree programs. Senior Seminars and Capstone Courses of all varieties are ideal candidates for Level III writing status.
3. Student Learning Outcome I Requirement: Students must complete at least one course designated as meeting GE Standard I (Student Learning Outcome I Standard) as described in Appendix A.
4. Student Learning Outcome III (Communication) Requirement: Students must complete at least one course designated as meeting GE Standard III (Student Learning Outcome III Standard, also known as the "Communication" Standard) as described in Appendix A.
5. Student Learning Outcome IV (Information Literacy and Technological Skills) Requirement: Students must complete at least one course designated as meeting GE Standard IV (Student Learning Outcome IV Standard, also known as the "Information Literacy and Technological Skills Standard") as described in Appendix A.
6. Student Learning Outcome VI (Create or Critique) Requirement: Students must complete at least one course designated as meeting GE Standard VI (Student Learning Outcome VI Standard, also known as the "Create or Critique" Standard) as described in Appendix A.

## Exceptions to the General Education Program Requirements

1. Where coursework in biology, chemistry, mathematics, or physics is required for a student's declared major, such courses may be used to count towards satisfaction of the Breadth Requirement regardless of their designation as General Education Core courses. If a student chooses to exercise this provision, and subsequently changes his or her major to a field not requiring the aforementioned coursework, the student will retain General Education Core credit for the coursework.
2. In satisfying a modern language requirement in the General Education Core, students may substitute a higher level modern language course for a lower level modern language course in the same language.

## Program Summary

Breadth Requirement 36 Credits

Students must earn at least 12 credits in each of the following three areas: Group A: Arts & Letters, Group B: Science, and Group C: Social Science. Within each area, the 12 credits must be earned in at least four distinct categories. At least 3 credits from Group B must come from a course or courses for which "meeting the University Math Competency requirement" is a prerequisite.

Arts and Letters (Group A) (12 Credits of above)

1. English Language and Literature
2. Fine Arts – Art, Communication Studies, Dance, Music, and Theatre
3. Modern Languages
4. Performing Arts – Communication Studies, Dance, Music, and Theatre
5. Philosophy

Science (Group B) (12 Credits of above)

1. Biology
2. Chemistry
3. Computer Science
4. Mathematics
5. Physics
6. Psychology

Social Science (Group C) (12 Credits of above)

1. Economics
2. Geography
3. History
4. Political Science
5. Sociology

English Composition (ENGL 103) 3 Credits

First Year Experience Course 3 Credits

Student Learning Outcome VII Course 3 Credits

Total Liberal Studies Core Credit Requirement 45 Credits

## Qualification of General Education Program Classes

All courses seeking inclusion in the General Education Program must certify as described below. All courses currently designated as GE courses must re-certify under the same guidelines. The areas of qualification and requirements for qualification are described in the following section. **For ease of comparison, GE Standards I-VII are designed to address University Wide Student Learning Outcomes I-VII, respectively.**

### Areas of Qualification for General Education Program Classes

#### **Core Program Certifications**

##### I. Breadth Courses

*Any* course seeking to satisfy in part the Breadth Requirement must:

1. Require students to achieve and demonstrate a specified minimum level of critical thinking in order to successfully complete the course. Specifically, the course must meet GE Standard II (Critical Thinking Standard) as described in Appendix A.

Additionally, courses seeking to satisfy in part the Breadth Requirement in specific areas are subject to area-specific requirements. In particular:

2. Courses seeking to qualify as Breadth courses in Group A must meet either GE Standard III (Communication Standard) or GE Standard VI (Create or Critique Standard) as described in Appendix A.
3. Courses seeking to qualify as Breadth courses in Group B must meet GE Standard V (Scientific Standard) as described in Appendix A. Courses with the rubric MATH are excepted from this requirement.
4. Because University-Wide Student Learning Outcome V contains a quantitative element, courses seeking to qualify as Breadth courses in Group B must meet GE Standard VIII (Quantitative Standard) as described in Appendix A.
5. Courses seeking to qualify as Breadth courses in Group C must meet at least one of the following Standards: GE Standard I (Student Learning Outcome I

Standard), GE Standard III (Communication Standard), GE Standard IV (Information Literacy and Technological Skills Standard), or GE Standard VI (Create or Critique Standard). The Standard(s) chosen will be at the discretion of the faculty member or members proposing the course for certification. See Appendix A for details regarding these four Standards.

## II. English Composition (ENGL 103)

English Composition (ENGL 103) is by definition part of the General Education Core, and therefore must:

1. Meet GE Standard II (Critical Thinking Standard) as described in Appendix A.
2. Require students to achieve and demonstrate a specified minimum level of proficiency in writing in order to successfully complete the course. The level of proficiency and method of assessment will be set by the English Department and will be communicated to the General Education Committee.
3. Have a student enrollment capped at 26 students or less.

## III. First Year Experience Course

Any course seeking to qualify as a First Year Experience Course must:

1. Meet GE Standard X (FYE Standard) as described in Appendix A.
2. As the First Year Experience Course is part of the General Education Core, it must also meet GE Standard II (Critical Thinking Standard) as described in Appendix A.
3. Have a student enrollment capped at 30 students or less.

The unique nature of the First Year Experience course suggests the creation of a First Year Experience Coordinating Committee, as described below.

4. First Year Experience Coordinating Committee

The General Education Committee recommends that a First Year Experience Coordinating Committee be established to oversee FYE offerings, to certify proposed FYE courses under the Standards above, and to consider requests for FYE waivers outside of the 24 credit rule described in the "General Education Core Program" section above. This committee will report to the Provost's Office. The General Education Committee recommends the following committee membership:



- Dean, University College (1, ex officio)
- Representative, University College (1, APSCUF elected)
- Representative, College of Health Sciences (1, APSCUF elected)
- Representative, College of Business and Management (1, APSCUF elected)
- Representative, College of Education (1, APSCUF elected)
- Representative, Faculty of Arts and Letters (1, APSCUF elected)
- Representative, Faculty of Science (1, APSCUF elected)
- Representative, Faculty of Social Science (1, APSCUF elected)
- Student Representative (1, Student Senate elected)
- Representative from General Education Committee (1, GEC elected)

#### IV. SLO VII Requirement

Any course seeking to qualify as satisfying the SLO VII requirement must:

1. Meet GE Standard VII (Student Learning Outcome VII Standard) as described in Appendix A.
2. Meet GE Standard II (Critical Thinking Standard) as described in Appendix A.
3. Have a course component containing physical activities, including the health-related components of physical activities, which is capped at 30 students.

### **Cognate Requirement Certifications**

#### V. Level II Writing Courses

Any course seeking to qualify as meeting the Level II Writing requirement must:

1. List ENGL 103 as a prerequisite.
2. Have a student enrollment capped at 26 students or less.
3. Meet all additional requirements of GE Standard IXa (Level II Writing Standard) as described in Appendix A.

## VI. Level III Writing Courses

Any course seeking to qualify as meeting the Level III Writing requirement must:

1. List the successful completion of a Level II Writing Course as a prerequisite.
2. Have a student enrollment capped at 22 students or less.
3. Meet all additional requirements of GE Standard IXb (Level III Writing Standard) as described in Appendix A.

## VII. Student Learning Outcome I Courses

Any course seeking to qualify as satisfying the Student Learning Outcome I requirement must meet GE Standard I (Student Learning Outcome I Standard) as described in Appendix A.

## VIII. Student Learning Outcome III (Communication) Courses

Any course seeking to qualify as satisfying the Student Learning Outcome III requirement must meet GE Standard III (Communication Standard) as described in Appendix A.

## IX. Student Learning Outcome IV (Information Literacy and Technological Skills) Courses

Any course seeking to qualify as satisfying the Student Learning Outcome IV Requirement must meet GE Standard IV (Information Literacy and Technological Skills Standard) as described in Appendix A.

## X. Student Learning Outcome VI (Create or Critique) Courses

Any course seeking to qualify as satisfying the Student Learning Outcome VI requirement must meet GE Standard VI (Create or Critique Standard) as described in Appendix A.

## Transition Students

Students who have earned at least one General Education credit through completion of courses at ESU prior to the first semester of implementation of the new General Education Program will be considered "Transition Students". Transition Students seeking to earn a degree from ESU have the option of satisfying either the previous General Education requirements *or* the new General Education Program requirements in order to complete their degree.