The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
General Education Requirement

Statement of Purpose: General education provides the foundation for successful academic study, for lifelong learning, and for carrying out the duties of local, national, and global citizenship. By building basic skills in communication, analysis, and computation as well as by broadening students’ historical and cultural perspectives, the general education curriculum helps students acquire an understanding of both self and society, and thus contributes to their personal enrichment while enrolled and after graduation.

The University of Tennessee’s general education program has been designed to enable the student to move among colleges within the university or to move to another institution of higher learning. Although it will provide the students with the skills required by college study, those skills are specific neither to UT Knoxville nor to a particular major or career path.

Outcomes: The program is expected to produce the following outcomes for the students.

Building Basic Skills: Because the hallmark of the educated person is the ability to think independently, students must be trained to acquire, evaluate, and use information.

- Students must be able to acquire information by conducting independent research, both in a conventional library setting and through the use of the rapidly developing electronic technologies, including data bases and internet resources.
- Students must then learn to evaluate the reliability, accuracy, and logical soundness of that information. The students will be taught to apply evaluative techniques to statistical and rhetorical presentations in arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.
- Students must be trained to use the information that they have acquired. They must write clearly, speak convincingly, and solve problems using creative approaches.

Developing Broadened Perspectives: General education should help students develop habits of self-examination in the context of the individual’s relationship to family, community, society, and world. To this end, general education should also help foster a commitment to respecting the diversity of personal and cultural values.

- Students should be able to explain their own values and beliefs, as well as to understand the histories and cultures behind those values. Students should also develop a commitment to lifelong learning so that they may continue to examine the relationships between their personal perspectives and the perspectives that arise from other cultures.
- Students should strengthen their sensitivity to cultural diversity by learning other languages, which can provide them with a gateway to the histories and traditions of other cultures, both within and outside the United States; and by understanding the dynamic nature of a multicultural world through interdisciplinary perspectives.

These are the General Education requirements:

A. For Building Basic Skills

I. Communicating through Writing (3 courses): Good writing skills enable students to create and share ideas, investigate and describe values, and record discoveries—all skills that are necessary not only for professional success but also for personal fulfillment in a world where communication increasingly takes place through electronic media. Students must be able to identify areas for inquiry, locate relevant information, evaluate its usefulness and quality, and incorporate the information logically and ethically. They must be able to write correctly, and they must be aware that different audiences and purposes call for different rhetorical responses. To satisfy this requirement, students take the first-year composition sequence and, upon completion of English 101 and 102 or their equivalent, take one other course designated as “writing-intensive” (WC) in the undergraduate catalog. The writing-intensive courses can be within the student’s major or an elective. In order to gain a “WC” designation, courses shall require formal and informal writing assignments that total 5,000 words.

Approved Communicating through Writing (WC) courses:

- Architecture
  - 213 History and Theory of Contemporary Architecture

- Civil Engineering
  - 205 Professional Development I

- English
  - 254 Themes in Literature
  - 255 Public Writing
  - 295 Business and Technical Writing
  - 355 Rhetoric and Writing
  - 360 Technical and Professional Writing
  - 363 Writing Poetry
  - 364 Writing Fiction
  - 398 Junior-Senior Honors Seminar
  - 455 Persuasive Writing
  - 499 Senior Seminar

- Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism
  - 390 Professional Development (same as Retail and Consumer Sciences 390)

- Journalism and Electronic Media
  - 200 Introduction to News Writing
  - 201 Writing for Mass Media

- Judaic Studies
  - 322 Medieval Philosophy (same as Medieval Studies 322 and Philosophy 322)

- Medieval Studies
  - 322 Medieval Philosophy (same as Judaic Studies 322 and Philosophy 322)

- Music History
  - 210 History of Music I
  - 220 History of Music II
  - 330 Women in Music (same as Women’s Studies 330)
  - 380 Music in World Cultures
  - 430 Symphonic Literature

- Music Education
  - 430 Music Methods for High School

- Nuclear Engineering
  - 304 Nuclear and Radiological Engineering Laboratory I
  - 403 Nuclear and Radiological Engineering Laboratory II

- Nursing
  - 403 Health Promotion and Maintenance in Childbearing Families

- Philosophy
  - 240 Ethics
  - 242 Ethical Theory and Its Applications
II. Communicating Orally (1 course): The ability to communicate one’s ideas orally is as important as the ability to express them well in writing. The well-educated person should be able to speak in an informative and/or convincing manner to other individuals and to groups, both small and large. Being able to express one’s thoughts clearly has always been a critical component of good citizenship. Students should be able to locate relevant information, evaluate its usefulness and quality, and incorporate the information logically and ethically in public address. (See Note 4.)

This requirement may be completed by

(1) Completion of Communication Studies 210 or 240 or
(2) Completion of a course with an “OC” designation.

Approved Communicating Orally (OC) courses:

Civil Engineering
205 Professional Development I

Environmental and Soil Sciences
301 Professional Development

Legal Studies
344 Professional Responsibility (same as Religious Studies 344 and Philosophy 344)

Nursing
452 Professional and Workplace Issues
454 Professional Leadership Issues

Philosophy
344 Professional Responsibility (same as Legal Studies 344 and Religious Studies 344)

Religious Studies
344 Professional Responsibility (same as Legal Studies 344 and Philosophy 344)

This requirement may be completed by either of the following:

(1) taking two mathematics or statistics courses from the list below. (Preferably, these courses would be taken in one of the following pairings: Mathematics 110 and 115; Mathematics 123 and 125; Mathematics 141 and 142; Mathematics 147 and 148; Mathematics 151 and 152; Mathematics 125, 141 or 147 and Statistics 201 or 207; Mathematics 115 and 123 or 125 or 202.)

Mathematics
110 Intermediate Algebra
115 Statistical Reasoning
123 Finite Mathematics
125 Basic Calculus
141–142 Calculus I, II
147–148 Honors: Calculus I, II
151–152 Mathematics for the Life Sciences I, II
202 Probability, Statistics, and Euclidean Geometry

Statistics
201 Introduction to Statistics
207 Honors: Introduction to Statistics

or

(2) taking one mathematics course from the list above and one course designated in the undergraduate catalog as having a quantitative component (QR). The course designated as having a quantitative component may be within the student’s major or an elective.

Approved Quantitative Reasoning (QR) courses:

Architecture
331 Architectural Structures I

Computer Science
100 Introduction to Computers and Computing
102 Introduction to Computer Science

Music Technology
290 Sound Recording Techniques

B. For Developing Broadened Perspectives

I. Natural Sciences (2 courses): As science and technology come to play an increasingly important role in contemporary life, it is essential for all educated persons to have a fundamental understanding of science and its methods. All students should be familiar with one or more scientific disciplines and the role of science in contemporary society. Such familiarity may be gained through acquisition of knowledge of a discipline’s basic vocabulary, chief discoveries, and fundamental principles; exposure to a discipline’s experimental techniques; and the ability to analyze and critique science claims.

This requirement is satisfied by taking two courses from the approved list. At least one of the courses must have a laboratory.

Approved Natural Sciences (NS) courses:

Astronomy
151–152 Introductory Astronomy
161–162 Introductory Astronomy with Laboratory
217–218 Honors: Introductory Astronomy

Biology
101–102 Humankind in the Biotic World
130 Biodiversity
140 Organization and Function of the Cell

Botany
110–120 General Botany

Chemistry
100 Principles of Chemistry
110 Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry
II. Arts and Humanities (2 courses): To live well in the present, one must have an acquaintance with the past, especially with the cultural achievements that are the distinctive hallmarks of all human societies. An appreciation of art, music, theater, literature, and philosophy will not only enrich the lives of students, but it will also help them understand their own and other’s aspirations, both in a historical and a contemporary context. This requirement is satisfied by taking two courses from the list below.

Approved Arts and Humanities (AH) courses:

- African and African-American Studies
  - 162 Art of Africa, Oceania, and Pre-Columbian America
  - 233 Major Black Writers (same as African-American Studies 162)
- Architecture
  - 211 History and Theory of Architecture I
  - 212 History and Theory of Architecture II
- Art History
  - 162 Art of Africa, Oceania, and Pre-Columbian America
  - 167 Honors: Art of Africa, Oceania, and Pre-Columbian America
  - 172 Western Art I
  - 173 Western Art II
  - 177 Honors: Western Art I
  - 178 Honors: Western Art II
  - 183 Asian Art
  - 187 Honors: Asian Art

III. Social Sciences (2 courses): The goal of the social sciences is to help us understand the way that we live, especially the relation between the individual and the group, sometimes from an historical but often from a contemporary perspective. Vital to the continued health and success of our society is an understanding of the complex individual, political, and social dynamics that make up the modern world. Students should not only have knowledge of the principal concerns of the social sciences, but they should also understand the methods by which social scientists collect and evaluate knowledge. This requirement is satisfied by taking two courses from the following list.

Approved Social Sciences (SS) courses:

- Anthropology
  - 130 Cultural Anthropology
- Child and Family Studies
  - 210 Human Development
  - 220 Marriage and Family: Roles and Relationships (same as Women's Studies 230)
- Economics
  - 201 Introductory Economics: A Survey Course
  - 207 Honors: Introductory Economics
- Political Science
  - 102 Introduction to Political Science
- Psychology
  - 110 General Psychology
  - 117 Honors: General Psychology
Sociology
110 Social Justice and Social Change
117 Honors: Social Justice and Social Change
120 General Sociology
127 Honors: General Sociology

Women’s Studies
230 Marriage and Family: Roles and Relationships (same as Child and Family Studies 220)

IV. Cultures and Civilizations (2 courses): Knowledge of foreign languages and cultures and their histories have long been required of educated people. Today technologies of travel and communication create global communities, and so increase the importance of this knowledge. While it is not possible to become expert in all cultures and civilizations, a perspective on which to build knowledge over a lifetime can be gained by study of foreign languages and the study of the cultures and histories of their speakers. This perspective improves the ability of students to function effectively in the global community of the twenty-first century by developing an appreciation of linguistic, historical, and cultural diversity.

This requirement is satisfied by
(1) taking two courses from the following list or
(2) taking two courses in a foreign language at the intermediate level.

Approved Cultures and Civilizations (CC) courses:

African and African-American Studies
235–236 Introduction to African Studies

Asian Studies
101–102 Asian Civilization

Classics
201 Introduction to Classical Civilization

Geography
101–102 World Geography

Global Studies
250 Introduction to Global Studies (same as Sociology 250)

History
241–242 Development of Western Civilization
247–248 Honors: Development of Western Civilization
255–256 Introduction to Latin American Studies (same as Latin American Studies 251–252)
261–262 A History of World Civilization

Latin American Studies
251–252 Introduction to Latin American Studies (same as History 255–256)

Medieval Studies
201–202 Medieval Civilization

Religious Studies
101 World Religions in History
102 The Comparison of World Religions

Sociology
250 Introduction to Global Studies (same as Global Studies 250)

Intermediate Foreign Language Courses:

Arabic
221–222 Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I, II (same as Arabic Studies 221–222)

Asian Languages
231–232 Intermediate Chinese I, II (same as Chinese 231–232)
251–252 Intermediate Japanese I, II (same as Japanese 251–252)

Asian Studies
221–222 Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I, II (same as Arabic 221–222)
241–242 Intermediate Modern Hebrew I, II (same as Hebrew 241–242)
261–262 Intermediate Persian (same as Persian 261–262)

Chinese
231–232 Intermediate Chinese I, II (same as Asian Languages 231–232)

Classics
251 Intermediate Latin: Grammar Review and Readings and
252 Intermediate Latin: Vergil’s Aeneid
261 Intermediate Greek: Grammar Review and
264 Readings and Intermediate Readings in Greek

French
211–212 Intermediate French
217–218 Honors: Intermediate French

German
201–202 Intermediate German

Hebrew
241–242 Intermediate Modern Hebrew I, II (same as Asian Studies 241–242)

Italian
211–212 Intermediate Italian

Japanese
251–252 Intermediate Japanese I, II (same as Asian Languages 251–252)

Persian
261–262 Intermediate Persian (same as Asian Studies 261–262)

Portuguese
211–212 Intermediate Portuguese

Russian
201–202 Intermediate Russian

Spanish
211–212 Intermediate Spanish
217–218 Honors: Intermediate Spanish

Notes
(1) Some courses on the various General Education course lists may have prerequisites. Students are responsible for meeting all course prerequisites.

(2) The following are exempt from the General Education Requirement until fall 2005:
- All majors in the College of Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Biosystems Engineering
- Bachelor of Fine Arts (Graphic Design major and Studio Art major—all concentrations)
- Bachelor of Music (Music major—all concentrations)

(3) Subcommittees of the Undergraduate Council General Education Committee are charged with management of the courses to be included on the General Education course lists for the Basic Skills and Broadened Perspectives areas.

(4) The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is committed to providing equal opportunities for students with disabilities at the University of Tennessee. Appropriate accommodations will be made to enable persons with disabilities to satisfy the General Education requirements. Students with documented disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services for assistance with appropriate accommodations at 865-974-6087 or ods@tennessee.edu.