

# State Requirements for General Education

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For CORE-MIC meeting 12.07.07

# MHEC definition of “general education program”

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- "General education program" means a program that is designed to:
  - (a) Introduce undergraduates to the fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that are essential to the study of academic disciplines;
  - (b) Encourage the pursuit of life-long learning; and
  - (c) Foster the development of educated members of the community and the world.
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# General Education requirements for Public Institutions

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- A. While public institutions have the autonomy to design their general education program to meet their unique needs and mission, that program shall conform to the definitions and common standards in this chapter. A public institution shall satisfy the general education requirement by:**
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- 1) Requiring each program leading to the A.A. or A.S. degree to include not less than 30 and no more than 36 semester hours and **each baccalaureate degree program to include not less than 40 and no more than 46 semester hours of required core courses**, with the core requiring, at a minimum, coursework in each of the following five areas:
    - (a) Arts and Humanities
    - (b) Social and Behavioral Sciences
    - (c) Biological and Physical Sciences
    - (d) Mathematics and
    - (e) English Composition
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- (2) Conforming with COMAR 13B.02.02.16D(2)(b)-(c).
  - **B. Each core course used to satisfy the distribution requirements of (1) of this regulation shall carry at least 3 semester hours.**
  - **C. General education programs of public institutions shall require at least:**
  - (1) one course in each of two disciplines in arts and humanities;  
(2) one course in each of two disciplines in social and behavioral sciences;  
(3) two science courses, at least one of which shall be a laboratory courses;  
(4) one course in mathematics at or above the level of college algebra; and  
(5) one course in English composition.
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# Additional specification of Comar 13B.02.02.16

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- D. General Education Requirement.
  - (1) An approved degree-granting institution shall provide to its students, within the required curriculum for graduation, a general education that is designed to provide the student with the skills and knowledge necessary to:
    - (a) Communicate effectively in oral and written English;
    - (b) Read with comprehension;
    - (c) Reason abstractly and think critically;
    - (d) Understand and interpret numerical data;
    - (e) Understand the scientific method;
    - (f) Recognize and appreciate cultural diversity; and
    - (g) Understand the nature and value of the fine and performing arts.
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- ❑ **D. Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues.**
  - ❑ (1) In addition to the five required areas in §A of this regulation, a public institution may include up to 8 semester hours in a sixth category that addresses emerging issues that institutions have identified as essential to a full program of general education for their students. These courses may:
    - ❑ (a) be integrated into other general education courses or may be presented as separate courses; and
    - ❑ (b) include courses that:
      - ❑ (i) provide an interdisciplinary examination of issue across the five areas, or
      - ❑ (ii) address other categories of knowledge, skills, and values that lie outside of the five areas.
  - ❑ (2) Public institutions may not include the courses in this section in a general education program unless they provide academic content and rigor equivalent to the areas in §A(1) of this regulation.
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# In a nutshell...

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- Strategic Planning 2007-08  
CORE Major Initiative Committee
  
  - See State Requirements
    - From Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13B.06.01.03 and COMAR 13B.02.02.16D
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# Two-Year Colleges

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- E. General education programs leading to the A.A.S. degree shall include at least 20 semester hours from the same course list designated by the sending institution for the A.A. and A.S. degrees. The A.A.S. degree shall include at least one 3-semester-hour course from each of the five areas listed in §(A)(1) of this regulation.
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# Additional requirements for four-year publics...

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- G. A public institution may allow a speech communication or foreign language course to be part of the arts and humanities category.
  - H. Composition and literature courses may be placed in the arts and humanities area if literature is included as part of the content of the course.
  - I. Public institutions may not include physical education skills courses as part of the general education requirements.
  - J. General education courses shall reflect current scholarship in the discipline and provide reference to theoretical frameworks and methods of inquiry appropriate to academic disciplines.
  - K. Courses that are theoretical may include applications, but all applications courses shall include theoretical components if they are to be included as meeting general education requirements.
  - L. Public institutions may incorporate knowledge and skills involving the use of quantitative data, effective writing, information retrieval, and information literacy when possible in the general education program.
  - M. Notwithstanding §A(1) of this regulation, a public 4-year institution may require 48 semester hours of required core courses if courses upon which the institution's curriculum is based carry 4 semester hours.
  - N. Public institutions shall develop systems to ensure that courses approved for inclusion on the list of general education courses are designed and assessed to comply with the requirements of this chapter.
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# Transfer of General Education Credit

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- A. A student transferring to one public institution from another public institution shall receive general education credit for work completed at the student's sending institution as provided by this chapter.
  
  - B. A completed general education program shall transfer without further review or approval by the receiving institution and without the need for a course-by-course match.
  
  - C. Courses that are defined as general education by one institution shall transfer as general education even if the receiving institution does not have that specific course or has not designated that course as general education.
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- **D. The receiving institution shall give lower-division general education credits to a transferring student who has taken any part of the lower-division general education credits described in Regulation.03 of this chapter at a public institution for any general education courses successfully completed at the sending institution.**
  - E. Except as provided in Regulation .03M of this chapter, a receiving institution may not require a transfer student who has completed the requisite number of general education credits at any public college or university to take, as a condition of graduation, more than 10-16 additional semester hours of general education and specific courses required of all students at the receiving institution, with the total number not to exceed 46 semester hours. This provision does not relieve students of the obligation to complete specific academic program requirements or course prerequisites required by a receiving institution.**
  - **F. Each sending institution shall designate on or with the student transcript those courses that have met its general education requirements as well as indicate whether the student has completed the general education program.**
  
  - ***Administrative History***  
***Effective date: December 4, 1995 (22:24 Md. R. 1901)***  
***Regulations .02, .03, and .05 amended. Effective date: July 1, 1996 (23:13 Md. R. 946)***
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