

TO: Shared Governance Oversight Committee

FROM: General Education Committee

RE: Revision of the General Education Program Mission, Goals and Curriculum

DATE: November 10, 2011

The Arkansas State Legislature in ACT 747 reduced the number of credit hours for an Associate degree to 60 credit hours and for a Bachelor's degree to 120 credit hours. A number of degrees at Arkansas State University currently require in excess of 120 credit hours. A revision of the general education requirements to the State Minimum Core impacts all degrees in an effort to reduce the number of credit hours. The General Education Committee reviewed and revised the general education mission, goals and curriculum.

The General Education Committee recommends the following be assessed at the University level by the Learning Outcomes Assessment Council

- Thinking critically,
- Using technology, and
- Understanding global issues.

The General Education Committee further recommends that providing foundations necessary to achieve health and wellness be a co-curricular emphasis of Student Affairs.

### **Statement of Mission for the General Education Program of Arkansas State University**

The general education program develops a foundation and motivation for the lifelong pursuit of learning in undergraduate students at Arkansas State University by introducing them to a broad range of essential areas of knowledge that will enable them to think critically and participate ethically in a democratic nation and a global society.

## General Education Goals for Students

**1. *Communicating effectively.*** Students should be able to communicate effectively and correctly, in writing and in speech, for a variety of purposes, using appropriate forms of discourse, organizational strategies, and vocabulary.

Students will demonstrate the ability to

- Produce writing that demonstrates proficiency in standard edited American English to make reasoned, well-organized arguments that are accurately documented;
- Construct and deliver a well-organized, logical, and informative presentation.

**2. *Using mathematics.*** Students should be able to use, understand and apply basic mathematical skills in practical applications.

Students will demonstrate the ability to

- Interpret and analyze quantitative/mathematical information (such as formulas, graphs, and tables);
- Apply mathematical methods to solve problems.

**3. *Developing a life-long appreciation of the arts and humanities.*** Students should develop an appreciation for the arts and humanities. They should be aware of the role of art and literature in human civilization and contemporary culture.

Students will demonstrate the ability to

- Recognize works of literature or fine art and place them in their historical, cultural, and social contexts;
- Interpret works of fine art or literature.

**4. *Developing a strong foundation in the social sciences.*** Students should be aware of the diverse systems developed by humans to manage and structure our relationships with one another. Students should prepare for the full range of public and private roles they are expected to fulfill as citizens, decision-makers and human beings in a democratic America and in a global society.

Students will demonstrate the ability to

- Explain the processes and effects of individual and group behavior;
- Analyze events in terms of the concepts and relational propositions generated by the social science tradition.

**5. *Using science to accomplish common goals.*** Students should understand how science is conducted and the criteria for scientific evidence so that they will be able to make informed decisions about the health and well-being of their communities and the natural environment. They should be aware of the ethical and political issues raised by science.

Students will be able to

- understand the scientific method;
- understand basic concepts of science as they apply to contemporary issues.

**GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM  
FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES**

		Sem. Hrs.
<b>Communication</b>		<b>6</b>
	ENG 1003, Composition I	
	ENG 1013, Composition II	
<b>Mathematics</b>		<b>3-4</b>
	MATH 1023, College Algebra,	
	<b>OR</b> MATH 1054 Precalculus Mathematics	
	<b>OR</b> any higher level mathematics course for which College Algebra is a prerequisite.	
<b>Arts and Humanities</b>		<b>9</b>
	<b>Select three of the following. At least one must be a fine arts course and one must be a humanities course.</b>	
	<b>Fine Arts:</b>	
	ART 2503, Fine Arts - Visual	
	MUS 2503, Fine Arts - Musical	
	THEA 2503, Fine Arts - Theatre	
	<b>Humanities:</b>	
	ENG 2003, Introduction to World Literature I	
	ENG 2013, Introduction to World Literature II	
	PHIL 1103, Introduction to Philosophy	
	PHIL 1503, Logic & Practical Reasoning	
<b>U. S. History / Government</b>		<b>3</b>
	<b>Select one of the following.</b>	
	HIST 2763, The United States to 1876	
	HIST 2773, The United States since 1876	
	POSC 2103, Introduction to United States Government	
<b>Social Sciences</b>		<b>6</b>
	<b>Select two of the following.</b>	
	ANTH 2233, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	
	ECON 2313, Principles of Macroeconomics	
	ECON 2333, Economic Issues and Concepts	
	GEOG 2613, Introduction to Geography	
	HIST 1013, World Civilization to 1660	
	HIST 1023, World Civilization since 1660	
	JOUR/RTV 1003 Mass Communication in Modern Society	
	POSC 1003, Introduction to Politics	
	PSY 2013, Introduction to Psychology	
	SOC 2213, Introduction to Sociology	
<b>Science</b>		<b>8</b>
	<b>Life Sciences (Select one of the following)</b>	
	BIO 2013 <b>AND</b> 2011, Biology of the Cell and Laboratory	
	*BIO 2103 <b>AND</b> 2101, Microbiology for Nursing and Allied Health and Laboratory	
	BIOL 1003 <b>AND</b> 1001 Biological Science and Laboratory	
	BIOL 1033 <b>AND</b> 1001, Biology of Sex and Laboratory	
	BIOL 1043 <b>AND</b> 1001, Plants and People and Laboratory	
	BIOL 1063 <b>AND</b> 1001, People and the Environment and Laboratory	

	*If BIO 2103 is selected, the student must also take <b>EITHER</b> BIO 2203 <b>AND</b> 2201, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Laboratory; <b>OR</b> BIO 2223 <b>AND</b> 2221, Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Laboratory.	
	<b>Physical Sciences (Select one of the following)</b>	
	CHEM 1013 <b>AND</b> 1011, General Chemistry I and Laboratory	
	CHEM 1043 <b>AND</b> 1041, Fundamental Concepts of Chemistry I and Laboratory	
	GEOL 1003 <b>AND</b> 1001, Environmental Geology and Laboratory	
	PHSC 1014, Energy and the Environment	
	PHSC 1203 <b>AND</b> 1201, Physical Science and Laboratory	
	PHYS 1103 <b>AND</b> 1101, Introduction to Space Science and Laboratory	
	PHYS 2034, University Physics I	
	PHYS 2054, General Physics I	
	<b>TOTAL Requirements</b>	<b>35</b>

**GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM FOR  
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREES**

		Sem. Hr.
	<b>Communication</b>	<b>6</b>
	ENG 1003, Composition I	
	ENG 1013, Composition II	
	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>3</b>
	MATH 1023, College Algebra	
	<b>Social Sciences</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Select one of the following.</b>	
	HIST 2763, The United States to 1876	
	HIST 2773, The United States since 1876	
	POSC 2103, Introduction to United States Government	
	<b>Computer Applications/Fundamentals</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Select one of the following:</b>	
	CIT 1503, Microcomputer Applications	
	CS 1013, Introduction to Computers	
	<b>TOTAL Requirements</b>	<b>15</b>