

MiraCosta College General Education Course Criteria (Plan A)

Universal criteria for all courses designated for general education (GE) at MiraCosta College
Rigor: Each GE course treats subject matter with a level of intellectual intensity that requires independent study.
Scope: Each GE course introduces the student to a wide range of principles, perspectives, and knowledge within the discipline.
Autonomy: Each GE course is a whole unto itself and not primarily part of a sequence of courses (i.e., each course provides exposure to foundations and fundamental tenets of the discipline).
Breadth: Each GE course provides a generalizing rather than specializing experience within the subject matter of the discipline. It relates knowledge within the discipline to other fields and disciplines, as well as to contemporary society.
Critical thinking: Each GE course develops the student’s aptitude for conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information.
Communication and literacy: Each GE course provides opportunities for the student to develop and demonstrate both orally and in writing the ability to read, comprehend, and evaluate college-level material.
Relevancy: Each GE course relies upon current knowledge, technology, and instructional materials to achieve its objectives, as appropriate.
Area A—Language and Reasoning
Courses in this area develop the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation of communication.
Area A1: English Composition
Course must include both expository and argumentative writing and have an appropriate prerequisite that distinguishes it from a remedial course.
Area A2: Communication and Analytical Thinking
Courses include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines. Mathematics courses have a prerequisite of elementary algebra or higher math.
Area B—Natural Sciences
Courses in this area examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. They include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.
Courses in this area should help students develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities.
Area C—Humanities
Courses in this area study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. They include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.
Courses in this area should help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation.
Courses in this area should help the student develop an aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments.

Area D—Social and Behavioral Sciences

Courses in this area focus on people as members of society. They include introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

Courses in this area should

- develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences;
- stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies; and
- promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate.

Area E—Lifelong Learning

Courses in this area equip students for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings.

Area E1: Technology and Information Fluency

Courses in this area develop the students' ability to skillfully and effectively make use of two or more technological tools to access, evaluate, analyze, integrate, and utilize information in a variety of contexts in order to apply it to decision making, critical thinking, and problem solving in their lives.

Courses in this area provide significant and comprehensive understanding of two or more technological tools, such as multiple computer applications, for the specific purpose of accessing, evaluating, analyzing, integrating, and utilizing information.

Courses in this area emphasize a variety of contexts in which the responsible and ethical use of information and information technology tools can be applied to decision making, critical thinking, and problem solving in students' lives.

Courses in this area encourage information seeking from diverse sources through the use of technology to identify information problems, seek their solutions, and communicate these solutions accurately and creatively.

Courses in this area emphasize that accurate and comprehensive critical evaluation and analysis of information through the use of technology is a basis for intelligent decision making.

Area E2: Self-Development

Courses in this area encourage attentiveness to health and well-being and to the practical aspects of managing and improving students' lives.

Courses in this area include selective consideration of content, such as human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, financial literacy, social relationships, and relationships with the environment, as well as implications of death and dying and avenues for lifelong learning.

Courses approved for this area should

- analyze the relationship between an individual and the broader society;
- recognize the human body as an integrated organism with systemic functions, such as movement, nutrition, growth, reproduction, and aging;
- examine the study of the mental processes that create consciousness, behavior, emotions, and intelligence;
- encourage students to recognize the human being as an integrated physiological, social, and psychological organism; and
- provide opportunities for students to demonstrate the ability to apply life-success skills.

Area F—Cultural Diversity

Courses in this area demonstrate sensitivity to and promote a climate of cultural diversity. They focus specifically on a multicultural and global perspective and foster an understanding of the student's role in a global community.

Courses that fulfill this requirement introduce and examine the intersection of ethnicity, language, or culture with gender, sexuality, class, or other important social categories, such as religion. The emphasis for any course meeting this requirement must be substantial and thematic rather than incidental or supplemental.

Courses approved for this category meet **at least four** of the following goals and criteria:

- Study the history, experience, and specific contributions of one or more groups that are distinct from the dominant culture in the U.S. or the student's country of origin.
- Increase students' knowledge and understanding of other cultures.
- Develop an awareness of racism or sexism and its impact on society.
- Promote critical thinking about issues relevant to one or more groups that are distinct from the dominant culture in the U.S. or the student's country of origin.
- Identify theories and practices of accommodation, assimilation, integration, and pluralism.
- Recognize artistic achievements and aesthetic values of non-Western cultures.
- Provide opportunities for students to recognize their own attitude toward cultural diversity.
- Encourage and stimulate personal discovery of the individual's identity in a culturally diverse world.

Area G—American Institutions and History

Courses in this area develop the knowledge and skills necessary for intelligent citizenship. They focus on the major events and issues in U.S. history and the political processes used in the United States.

Courses approved for this category substantially meet **at least one** of the following goals and criteria:

- Examine the historical development of American institutions and ideals.
- Examine the U.S. Constitution and structure of federal and state government.