

Minnesota State University, Mankato
General Education Program

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE PROPOSALS AND POLICIES

1. General Education courses should be broad and general rather than narrow and specific, or should focus on basic skill development. Most General Education courses will be at the 100-200 level. Upper division courses which are broad and general rather than narrow and specific could be counted as General Education courses. In most cases, such courses should not have prerequisites.
2. All course submissions for consideration as a General Education course will be reviewed in a manner consistent with all other curricular proposals. All General Education courses must be submitted through the Curricular Design System at <https://secure.mnsu.edu/CDS>
3. A single course may be placed in one or two categories and also may be designated as a writing intensive course.
4. Each proposed course must address the overall goal of the category(ies) and should meet the majority of the competencies associated with the category(ies) for which it is being submitted. Departments will address the various competencies in different ways and to different degrees. A proposed course should address the competencies in a substantive way. A justification is required for all competencies that are not addressed.
5. No consideration will be given to proposals that limit participation to specific sections of a course. Only courses, not specific sections of courses, are eligible for the designation as a General Education course. The only exceptions to this rule are writing intensive courses, which may have designated sections (indicated by a W following the course number in the Undergraduate and General Education Bulletins).
6. Writing intensive courses may overlap with any other category(ies). Writing intensive courses must also be in at least one other general education category.
 - a. Eligibility for designation as a Writing intensive course: at least 20 pages (250 words per page) of evaluated written work. At least 10 of the 20 pages must be critiqued, returned to the student for revision, resubmitted by the student, and then re-evaluated.
 - b. Faculty could think of two types of writing: 1) exploratory, informal writing of the kind that appears in learning logs, response journals, lab notebooks, discussion boards and the like. The purpose of this writing is to develop a writer's powers of perception and observation, to expand a writer's thinking repertoire, and to develop a consciousness of the writing process; 2) more formal writing, directed to an external audience, of the kind that appears in essay tests and formal papers.
7. Most general education classes will be three credits, although a course may be more or less than three credits. A justification is required for any course that is more than three (3) credits. The justification should either demonstrate sufficient content to meet at least 75% of the competencies associated with at least one category for which the course is being submitted OR additional instructor to student contact hours. In the later case, four (4) credit courses should contain a total of at least 60 instructor to student contact hours per semester (15 hours per semester more than a 3 credit hour course) and five (5) credit courses should contain a total of at least 75 instructor to student contact hours per (30 hours per semester more than a three (3) credit hour course). Additional contact and content should constitute more than additional homework assignments.
8. Faculty are encouraged to foster information literacy in their general education courses.

FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS

1. A total of 44 credits must be completed to satisfy the General Education Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Exceptions to this policy are governed by MnSCU Policy 3.21 (Undergraduate Credit Transfer).
2. A single course may be placed in one or two categories and also may be designated as a Writing Intensive course. Each credit in any of these courses, however, may be counted only once in meeting the 44 credit requirement.
3. The Critical Thinking category (2) may be satisfied either by taking a course or by the satisfactory completion of the other General Education categories.
4. Completion of the General Education Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato fulfills the requirements of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum.
5. In each category where two courses are required, students are required to take courses from different disciplines.
6. To count as General Education credits, students may take no more than two courses or eight (8) credits, whichever is greater, from the same discipline. The only exception to this policy is for ENG 101 (Composition).