

# GENERAL EDUCATION

As an institution whose mission seeks to unify traditionally separate academic domains in the pursuit of preparing students for an ever more complex world and to instill in them the values of the liberally educated, Western Colorado University requires all graduates to complete General Education requirements. Through Western's General Education program, students are exposed to a wide variety of subject matter and fields of study which have evolved through time to include diverse perspectives and experiences which reflect and embrace the above mentioned principles which define the role and mission of our university.

The General Education Program provides a foundation for analytical discovery, independent thinking, and informed and engaged citizenship. General Education courses require students to engage the knowledge, perspectives, and methods of specific disciplines while developing essential skills. In so doing, students increase their understanding of themselves, the natural world, the bases of our society and institutions, the larger world, and their relationships. These courses offer a foundation for further studies and continued intellectual growth.

The thirty-five credit General Education Program contains two components:

- Essential Skills (9 credits) and
- the Liberal Arts (26 credits).

## I. Essential Skills (9 Credits)

The purpose of the Essential Skills requirements is to provide students with the tools needed to reason, write, speak, read, quantify, and use information and technology in new ways of thinking and doing. The acquisition, application, and integration of the Essential Skills are practiced through the General Education curriculum and within courses in the disciplines during the students' university careers.

Students must earn a minimum grade of "C-" in the following courses to fulfill the Essential Skills requirement:

| Code  | Title  | Credits  |
|---|--|----------|
| <b>First Writing Course</b>                         |  |          |
| ENG 102   | Writing and Rhetoric I (GT-CO1) <sup>1,2</sup>         | 3        |
| <b>Second Writing Course</b>                        |  |          |
| ENG 103   | Writing and Rhetoric II (GT-CO2)                       | 3        |
| <b>Mathematics Course</b>                           |  |          |
| Select three credits of the following: <sup>3</sup> |  |          |
| MATH 105  | Mathematics for the Liberal Arts (GT-MA1) <sup>1</sup> |          |
| MATH 113  | Statistical Thinking (GT-MA1) <sup>1</sup>             |          |
| MATH 140  | College Algebra (GT-MA1) <sup>1</sup>                  |          |
| MATH 141  | Precalculus (GT-MA1)                                   |          |
| MATH 151  | Calculus I (GT-MA1) <sup>1</sup>                       |          |
| MATH 213  | Probability and Statistics (GT-MA1) <sup>1</sup>       |          |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                |  | <b>9</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Colorado State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course.

<sup>2</sup> Enrollment in ENG 102 Writing and Rhetoric I requires reading and writing abilities consistent with the university entry-level expectations defined by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Consult with an advisor for English course prerequisites.

<sup>3</sup> The mathematics requirement varies by program of study (major, emphasis, minor). Many programs have specific requirements beyond the University minimum. In all cases, these specific requirements satisfy the University Mathematics Course requirement. To select the appropriate courses, see the Academic Programs section of this *Catalog*.

If there is no specific mathematics requirement within a program of study, the minimum Mathematics Course requirement of the University may be satisfied by passing, with a minimum grade of "C-," any university-level mathematics course numbered 100 or above.

Enrollment in university-level mathematics courses (numbered 100 or above) requires mathematics abilities consistent with the university entry-level expectations defined by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Students should consult with their advisors about which mathematics course is appropriate.

## II. Liberal Arts (26 Credits)

Each of the courses included in the Liberal Arts program extends the development of Essential Skills while examining the social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts and humanities. Courses in the Liberal Arts program may also satisfy major and/or minor requirements.

### Area I: Social Sciences (9 credits)

Courses in Area I focus on the following goals:

- Students use social science methods and reasoning.
- Students demonstrate knowledge of how historical, political, economic, cultural, or social contexts shape the human environment.
- Students demonstrate knowledge of how individuals relate to the social world, past and present.

Nine credits are required from the courses listed below. Students must choose from three disciplines.

| Code                                  | Title  | Credits |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------|
| Select nine credits of the following: |  |         |
| ANTH 107                              | Introduction to General Anthropology <sup>1</sup>                      | 9       |
| BUAD 101                              | Business of Life   |         |
| ECON 201                              | Macroeconomics (GT-SS1) <sup>1</sup>                                   |         |
| EDUC 102                              | Learning & Teaching (GT-SS3) <sup>1</sup>                              |         |
| EDUC 202                              | Past, Present, and Future of Schooling in the US (GT-SS3) <sup>1</sup> |         |
| ENVS 100                              | Introduction to Environment and Sustainability (GT-SS2) <sup>1</sup>   |         |
| GEOG 110                              | World Regional Geography (GT-SS2) <sup>1</sup>                         |         |
| GEOG 120                              | Introduction to Human Geography (GT-SS2) <sup>1</sup>                  |         |
| GEOG 250                              | Geography of North America (GT-SS2) <sup>1</sup>                       |         |
| HIST 100                              | Topics in World History (GT-HI1) <sup>1</sup>                          |         |
| HIST 126                              | American History through Reconstruction (GT-HI1) <sup>1</sup>          |         |
| HIST 127                              | U.S. History from the Civil War (GT-HI1) <sup>1</sup>                  |         |
| HIST 128                              | Introduction to Environmental History (GT-HI1) <sup>1</sup>            |         |
| HIST 250                              | HIST OF THE MIDDLE EAST GHI1 <sup>1</sup>                              |         |
| HIST 251                              | History of Europe (GT-HI1) <sup>1</sup>                                |         |
| HIST 254                              | History of Africa (GT-HI1) <sup>1</sup>                                |         |
| HIST 260                              | History of Latin America GHI1 <sup>1</sup>                             |         |
| POLS 117                              | Introduction to Political Ideas (GT-SS1) <sup>1</sup>                  |         |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| POLS 180             | Introduction to American Politics (GT-SS1) <sup>1</sup>    |
| POLS 255             | Introduction to Comparative Politics (GT-SS1) <sup>1</sup> |
| POLS 260             | Introduction to World Politics (GT-SS1) <sup>1</sup>       |
| PSY 100              | General Psychology (GT-SS3) <sup>1</sup>                   |
| SOC 101              | Introduction to Sociology (GT-SS3) <sup>1</sup>            |
| SOC 168              | Social Problems  |
| SPAN 282             | Hispanic Identities  |
| <b>Total Credits</b> | <b>9</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> Colorado State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course.

## Area II: Natural Sciences (8 credits)

Courses in Area II focus on the following goals:

- Students demonstrate knowledge of scientific viewpoints.
- Students use the scientific method.
- Students evaluate the impacts of science and technology on society.
- Students demonstrate scientific literacy.

Eight credits are required from the courses listed below:

| Code                                     | Title   | Credits |
|--|---|---------|
| Select eight credits of the following: 8 |   |         |
| ANTH 218                                 | Biological Anthropology (with laboratory)                     |         |
| BIOL 120                                 | Studies in Biology (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>                      |         |
| BIOL 130                                 | Environmental Biology (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>                   |         |
| BIOL 135                                 | Environmental Biology Laboratory (GT-SC1) <sup>1</sup>        |         |
| BIOL 150                                 | Biological Principles (with laboratory) (GT-SC1) <sup>1</sup> |         |
| BIOL 151                                 | Diversity and Patterns of Life (with laboratory)              |         |
| BIOL 200                                 | Environmental and Public Health (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>         |         |
| CHEM 100                                 | Contemporary Chemistry (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>                  |         |
| CHEM 101                                 | Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>     |         |
| CHEM 111                                 | General Chemistry I (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>                     |         |
| CHEM 112                                 | General Chemistry Laboratory I (GT-SC1) <sup>1</sup>          |         |
| CHEM 113                                 | General Chemistry II  |         |
| CHEM 114                                 | General Chemistry Laboratory II                               |         |
| GEOL 101                                 | Physical Geology (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>                        |         |
|  | or GEOL 103 Earth and Energy Systems                          |         |
| GEOL 105                                 | Physical Geology Laboratory (GT-SC1) <sup>1</sup>             |         |
| PHYS 110                                 | Introductory Astronomy (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>                  |         |
| PHYS 115                                 | Physics of Music  |         |
| PHYS 120                                 | Meteorology (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>                             |         |
| PHYS 125                                 | Energy and the Environment (GT-SC2) <sup>1</sup>              |         |
| PHYS 140                                 | Introductory Physics (with laboratory) (GT-SC1) <sup>1</sup>  |         |
| PHYS 170                                 | Principles of Physics I (GT-SC2)                              |         |
| & PHYS 185                               | and Laboratory Physics I (GT-SC1) <sup>1</sup>                |         |
| PHYS 171                                 | Principles of Physics II (GT-SC2)                             |         |
| & PHYS 186                               | and Laboratory Physics II (GT-SC1) <sup>1</sup>               |         |
| PHYS 190                                 | General Physics I (GT-SC2)                                    |         |
| & PHYS 185                               | and Laboratory Physics I (GT-SC1)                             |         |
| PHYS 191                                 | General Physics II (GT-SC2)                                   |         |
| & PHYS 186                               | and Laboratory Physics II (GT-SC1)                            |         |
| SCI 110                                  | Habitable Planet (with laboratory)                            |         |
| SCI 120                                  | Living Planet (with laboratory)                               |         |

|                      |                                  |          |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| SCI 210              | Dynamic Planet (with laboratory) |          |
| <b>Total Credits</b> |                                  | <b>8</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Colorado State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course.

## Area III: Arts and Humanities (9 credits)

Courses in Area III focus on the following goals:

- Students enhance their appreciation of the modes of creative expression.
- Students ask fundamental questions of value and meaning.
- Students survey a variety of ways humans have perceived their world.
- Students explore the ways in which the human environment is shaped by social, cultural, linguistic, religious, philosophical, and historical circumstances.
- Students gain increased awareness of the moral and ethical dimensions of the human condition.

Nine credits are required from the courses listed below. Students must choose from three disciplines.

| Code                                    | Title  | Credits  |
|---|--|----------|
| Select nine credits of the following: 9 |  |          |
| ART 105                                 | Introduction to Art (GT-AH1) <sup>1</sup>                    |          |
| ART 119                                 | Foundation Drawing I   |          |
| ART 171                                 | Foundation Design: Two-Dimensional                           |          |
| ART 222                                 | Art History I  |          |
| ART 223                                 | Art History II (GT-AH1) <sup>1</sup>                         |          |
| COM 119                                 | Introduction to Film   |          |
| COM 121                                 | Introduction to Theatre (GT-AH1) <sup>1</sup>                |          |
| COM 151                                 | Introduction to Mass Media (GT-AH2) <sup>1</sup>             |          |
| COM 216                                 | Dramatic Literature and Script Analysis                      |          |
| DES 173                                 | Foundation Design: Digital Art and Design                    |          |
| ENG 148                                 | Television and Culture                                       |          |
| ENG 150                                 | Introduction to Literature (GT-AH2)                          |          |
| ENG 151                                 | Borderlands: Representing Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality |          |
| ENG 152                                 | Women and Literature   |          |
| ENG 153                                 | Literary Culture of the American West                        |          |
| ENG 154                                 | Popular Genre Fiction: Topic Variable                        |          |
| ENG 161                                 | Introduction to Creative Writing (GT-AH1) <sup>1</sup>       |          |
| ENG 230                                 | Environmental Literature (GT-AH2) <sup>1</sup>               |          |
| ENG 250                                 | Critical Approaches to Literature                            |          |
| ENG 255                                 | Ancient World Literature (GT-AH2) <sup>1</sup>               |          |
| ENG 270                                 | Folklore   |          |
| HIST 280                                | History and Philosophy of Travel (GT-HI1) <sup>1</sup>       |          |
| HIST 281                                | Past Visions: History on Film (GT-HI1) <sup>1</sup>          |          |
| MUS 100                                 | Fundamentals of Music (GT-AH1) <sup>1</sup>                  |          |
| MUS 140                                 | Introduction to Music (GT-AH1) <sup>1</sup>                  |          |
| MUS 245                                 | History of Rock and Roll                                     |          |
| PHIL 101                                | Introduction to Philosophy (GT-AH3) <sup>1</sup>             |          |
| SPAN 101                                | Elementary Spanish I   |          |
| SPAN 102                                | Elementary Spanish II  |          |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                    |  | <b>9</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Colorado State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course.

## Colorado State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Courses

Western Colorado University students who transfer to another Colorado public college or university may facilitate the transferring of general education credits by completing courses designated as State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Courses. Upon acceptance to another Colorado public college or university, students may have up to 31 credits of successfully completed (C- or better) State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Courses meet specific general education requirements of the receiving institution. Courses must incorporate specific content and competency areas as defined by the State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Curriculum. For more information regarding State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Courses and the 31-credit State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Curriculum, please consult the Colorado Department of Higher Education website: <http://highered.colorado.gov>.

Credits earned in general education courses not designated as State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Courses routinely transfer to other colleges and universities as determined by the receiving institution. A student transferring credits to another college or university should consult with the receiving institution to determine how transferred credits may meet particular general education requirements.

| Code   | Meaning  |
|--------|--|
| GT-CO1 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Introduction to Writing                       |
| GT-MA1 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Mathematics                                   |
| GT-SS1 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Economics of Political Systems                |
| GT-SS2 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Geography                                     |
| GT-SS3 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Human Behavior, Culture, or Social Frameworks |
| GT-HI1 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, History                                       |
| GT-SC1 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Natural Sciences with Laboratory              |
| GT-SC2 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Natural Sciences without Laboratory           |
| GT-AH1 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Arts and Expression                           |
| GT-AH2 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Literature and Humanities                     |
| GT-AH3 | Colorado Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course, Ways of Thinking                              |