

New Jersey Community College
Reaffirmation Policy on
General Education Distribution Credit
Approved CC Presidents 11-13-07

Policy:

Community Colleges shall construct associate degrees and certificates that are consistent with all existing and applicable NJCHE regulations and with the Academic Issues Committee Manual of the NJ President's Council. All general education courses shall satisfy the New Jersey Community College (NJCC) **General Education Foundation** criteria for course credit. The general education portion of all associate degrees and certificates shall match the distributions and totals as set forth in the NJCC **General Education Foundation**.

1. The NJCC **General Education Foundation** document represents and specifies the number, type, and character of general education credits that degrees and certificates are licensed to contain.
 - a. General education coursework that is 1-2 credits in excess of the NJCC **General Education Foundation minimum credit specifications** may be included in the general education portions of any degree or certificate as long as the program stays within the 66 credit maximum.
 - b. Coursework in excess of the NJCC **General Education Foundation** and the 1-2 credits discussed above shall be considered support courses for the major and shall be subject to transfer and articulation policies and procedures governing the course work in the programmatic core.
2. The Academic Officers Association (AOA) is responsible for the affirmation of and continued compliance with this policy.
3. The AOA is charged with responsibility to regularly reaffirm course and program compliance.

Rationale

Two recent reviews of the community college curriculum have been completed in September 2006 and May 2007. The findings were the following:

- o Associate degrees and certificates were identified that had either not enough (insufficient) or too much coursework when compared to the distributions and requirements as set forth in the NJCC **General Education Foundation**.
- o Locally approved general education courses did not satisfy the general education course criteria set forth in the NJCC **General Education Foundation**.
- o Community colleges should not require students to complete an array of courses that neither match the NJCC **General Education Foundation** nor fulfill requirements within a program.

**A General Education Foundation for
Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Specialized Associate, and Certificate Programs
in New Jersey's Community Colleges**
(1997 Adoption, August 15, 2007 Revision)

| General Education Goal(s) addressed | | | | | | | | | Course Categories (Goal Categories) | AA credits | AS credits | AAS, AFA AS Nursing credits | Certificate credits |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | | | | | | | | 9 | Communication (Written and Oral Com.) | 9 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | 9 | Mathematics – Science – Technology Mathematics 3-8 cr. (Quant. Knlg. & Skills) Science 3-8 cr. (Sci. Knlg. & Rsng.) Technological Competency or Information Literacy 0-4 cr. | 12 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| | | | | 5 | | | | 9 | Social Science (Society and Human Behavior) | 6 | 3 | 3 | |
| | | | | | 6 | | | 9 | Humanities (Humanistic Perspective) | 9 | 3 | 3 | |
| | | | | | | 7 | | 9 | History (Historical Perspective) | 6 | | | |
| | | | | | | | 8 | 9 | Diversity courses (Global & Cult. Awns.) | 3 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Unassigned general education credit | | 6 | 8 | |
| | | | | | | | | | <i>General education foundation total</i> | 45 | 30 | 20 | 6 |

| Gen. Ed. Foundation Course Categories | NJCC Goal Categories* | Course Criteria: Below are brief descriptions of the course criteria for satisfying the requirements. For fuller descriptions, see the NJCC GE Course Criteria (August 15, 2007). |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Communication | 1 Written and Oral Communication | An array of courses which prepare students to speak, read, and write effectively. At least two of these must be composition courses for A.A. and A.S. degrees. At least one of these must be a composition course for specialized degree programs and certificates. |
| 2 Mathematics | 2 Quantitative Knowledge and Skills | Any college level mathematics course including statistics, algebra, or calculus course(s). These courses should build upon a demonstrated proficiency in basic algebra. |
| 3 Science | 3 Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning | Any course(s) in the biological or physical sciences – including non-majors survey courses. At least one of these courses must have a laboratory component. |
| 4 Technology | 4 Technological Competency or Information Literacy | Any course that emphasizes common computer technology skills (e.g. computer science, information technology) that helps students to access, process, and present information. This component is not required for students who can demonstrate competency. |
| 5 Social Science | 5 Society and Human Behavior | Any introductory course(s) from among anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology. |
| 6 Humanities | 6 Humanistic Perspective | Any broad-based course(s) in the appreciation of art, music, or theater; literature; foreign language; history; philosophy and/or religious studies. |
| 7 History | 7 Historical Perspective | Any broad-based course(s) or sequence of courses in World, Western, non-Western, or American History. |
| 8 Diversity courses | 8 Global and Cultural Awareness | Any course whose primary purpose is to expose students to a multicultural society or people, possibly within the context of non-introductory study of a foreign language. If this goal is integrated into one or more general education course(s), the three credits may be moved from this category to another general education category. |
| | 9 Ethical Reasoning and Action | This ethical reasoning and action goal may be infused in any of the above categories. These courses should include the ethical implications of issues and situations. |

Note: This document should be used in conjunction with the NJCC GE Learning Goals & Suggested Individual College-Wide Learning Obj. (8-15-2007).

| Programs | Allocation Notes: The credit allocation below is consistent with the 1997 NJCC Gen. Ed. Foundation grid. |
|--|--|
| AA | The Associate in Arts (AA) program requires a minimum of 45 semester credit hours of general education coursework from among the indicated categories. |
| AS | The Associate in Science (AS) program requires a minimum of 30 semester credit hours from among the indicated categories, with minimum distributions as shown. Beyond these minimums, any 30-credit subset of the AA program credit distribution will be accepted. General education coursework in excess of the 24 credits listed should follow the AA distribution limits. |
| Specialized Associate AAS, AFA, & AS Nursing | The specialized associate degrees shall include Applied Associate in Science (AAS), Associate in Fine Arts (AFA), and AS in Nursing. These programs shall require no fewer than 20 semester credit hours of General Education. Notwithstanding any articulation agreements, the general education courses should support career preparation. General education coursework in excess of the 12 credits listed should follow the AS distribution limits. |
| Certificate | The Certificate (or Academic Certificate) shall prepare students to read and write effectively. At least one other general education course is required. The Certificate of Achievement (COA) requires no general education courses beyond those that support career education. The Certificate of Completion (COC) is a noncredit certification program, which is not applicable within the general education context. |