

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

¹ Colorado State Guaranteed General Education Transfer Course.

² 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.

³ 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:		9
ANTH 107	Introduction to General Anthropology ¹	
BUAD 101	Business of Life	
ECON 201	Macroeconomics (GT-SS1) ¹	
EDUC 102	Learning & Teaching (GT-SS3) ¹	
EDUC 202	Past, Present, and Future of Schooling in the US (GT-SS3) ¹	
ENVS 100	Introduction to Environment and Sustainability (GT-SS2) ¹	
GEOG 110	World Regional Geography (GT-SS2) ¹	
GEOG 120	Introduction to Human Geography (GT-SS2) ¹	
GEOG 250	Geography of North America (GT-SS2) ¹	
HIST 100	Topics in World History (GT-HI1) ¹	
HIST 126	American History through Reconstruction (GT-HI1) ¹	
HIST 127	U.S. History from the Civil War (GT-HI1) ¹	
HIST 128	Introduction to Environmental History (GT-HI1) ¹	
HIST 250	HIST OF THE MIDDLE EAST GHI1 ¹	
HIST 251	History of Europe (GT-HI1) ¹	
HIST 254	History of Africa (GT-HI1) ¹	
HIST 260	History of Latin America GHI1 ¹	
POLS 117	Introduction to Political Ideas (GT-SS1) ¹	

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

¹ 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) ¹	
BIOL 130	Environmental Biology (GT-SC2) ¹	
BIOL 135	Environmental Biology Laboratory (GT-SC1) ¹	
BIOL 150	Biological Principles (with laboratory) (GT-SC1) ¹	
BIOL 151	Diversity and Patterns of Life (with laboratory)	
BIOL 200	Environmental and Public Health (GT-SC2) ¹	
CHEM 100	Contemporary Chemistry (GT-SC2) ¹	
CHEM 101	Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry (GT-SC2) ¹	
CHEM 111	General Chemistry I (GT-SC2) ¹	
CHEM 112	General Chemistry Laboratory I (GT-SC1) ¹	
CHEM 113	General Chemistry II	
CHEM 114	General Chemistry Laboratory II	
GEOL 101	Physical Geology (GT-SC2) ¹	
	or GEOL 103 Earth and Energy Systems	
GEOL 105	Physical Geology Laboratory (GT-SC1) ¹	
PHYS 110	Introductory Astronomy (GT-SC2) ¹	
PHYS 115	Physics of Music	
PHYS 120	Meteorology (GT-SC2) ¹	
PHYS 125	Energy and the Environment (GT-SC2) ¹	
PHYS 140	Introductory Physics (with laboratory) (GT-SC1) ¹	
PHYS 170 & PHYS 185	Principles of Physics I (GT-SC2) and Laboratory Physics I (GT-SC1) ¹	
PHYS 171 & PHYS 186	Principles of Physics II (GT-SC2) and Laboratory Physics II (GT-SC1) ¹	
PHYS 190 & PHYS 185	General Physics I (GT-SC2) and Laboratory Physics I (GT-SC1)	
PHYS 191 & PHYS 186	General Physics II (GT-SC2) and Laboratory Physics II (GT-SC1)	
SCI 110	Habitable Planet (with laboratory)	
SCI 120	Living Planet (with laboratory)	

SCI 210	Dynamic Planet (with laboratory)	
Total Credits		8

¹ 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) ¹	
ART 119	Foundation Drawing I	
ART 171	Foundation Design: Two-Dimensional	
ART 173		
ART 222	Art History I	
ART 223	Art History II (GT-AH1) ¹	
COM 119	Introduction to Film	
COM 121	Introduction to Theatre (GT-AH1) ¹	
COM 151	Introduction to Mass Media (GT-AH2) ¹	
COM 216	Dramatic Literature and Script Analysis	
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) ¹	
ENG 230	Environmental Literature (GT-AH2) ¹	
ENG 250	Critical Approaches to Literature	
ENG 255	Ancient World Literature (GT-AH2) ¹	
ENG 270	Folklore	
HIST 280	History and Philosophy of Travel (GT-HI1) ¹	
HIST 281	Past Visions: History on Film (GT-HI1) ¹	
HIST 282		
MUS 100	Fundamentals of Music (GT-AH1) ¹	
MUS 140	Introduction to Music (GT-AH1) ¹	
MUS 240		
MUS 242		
MUS 245	History of Rock and Roll	
PHIL 101	Introduction to Philosophy (GT-AH3) ¹	
SPAN 101	Elementary Spanish I	

¹ 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