



Curriculum Handbook

Chapter 7: General Education Requirements

7.1 Overview

This chapter outlines the standards and basic processes used to review courses proposed to meet general education and graduation requirements, including the following patterns:

- Napa Valley College General Education (Local GE)
- California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)
Cal-GETC replaced the CSU GE and IGETC patterns in Fall 2025

The GE Subcommittee meets once a semester, as needed, to review courses proposed for the Local GE pattern and other requirements. Membership and processes for the GE Subcommittee are described in Chapter 3 of this Handbook.

Courses proposed for the transfer GE pattern (Cal-GETC) are sent out for external review and follow the processes and deadlines established by the CSU Chancellor's Office and UC President's Office. Please contact the Articulation Officer for more details.

7.2 Guiding Principles for General Education

Recognizing that specific deadlines and processes may need to be altered in response to each year's workload, external timelines, or emerging needs, the following general principles shall guide processes for reviewing courses for general education:

- The Academic Senate, advised by the Curriculum Committee, establishes Local GE categories consistent with title 5 regulations.
- The Curriculum Committee, advised by the GE Subcommittee, approves placement of courses within Local GE categories.
- Discipline faculty may propose a course for a particular Local GE or Transfer GE area.
- The Articulation Officer advises discipline faculty and members of the GE Subcommittee on eligibility for Local and Transfer GE areas.
- Wherever possible, Local GE placement processes and deadlines shall attempt to align with Transfer GE categories and effective approval dates.

7.3 Proposing a Course for General Education

Faculty may propose adding a GE designation to a new or existing course through the curriculum management system (CIM). The consideration to designate a course as meeting GE criteria is based on a review of the course outline of record (COR). Faculty are

encouraged to meet with the Articulation Officer early during the course development process to ensure that evidence to support a specific GE designation is clearly and explicitly described in the COR. The Articulation Officer may also reach out to faculty authors with suggestions for GE placement during the review of new courses.

Requests for Local GE placement must be recommended by members of the GE Subcommittee and approved by the Curriculum Committee. Committee members will review the COR in the context of Local GE categories and requirements when making recommendations for placement. Courses that are unanimously recommended by the GE Subcommittee will go on the Curriculum Committee's consent agenda; in the case of a split vote, they will be placed on the action agenda for further discussion.

Requests for Transfer GE placement are submitted by the Articulation Officer through the ASSIST database. Approvals are determined based on external review of the COR by faculty within the CSU and UC systems. The Articulation Officer will communicate external decisions on approvals to faculty authors as they are received and advise faculty on any necessary follow up. See the Curriculum Committee website for typical articulation timelines.

7.4 Local GE Requirements

Napa Valley College's general education pattern represents a common curriculum that is the foundation of the Associate Degree (AA or AS) irrespective of major. Courses proposed for Local GE designation must be consistent with the college's general education philosophy, as described in AP 4025, and meet the additional criteria specific to the area of specialty. A course may be approved in more than one Local GE area, but students may not use the same course to satisfy the requirement in more than one GE area (double count). The GE Subcommittee develops and reviews the local GE philosophy, evaluation criteria, and rubrics in alignment with Title 5 §55061 requirements. When necessary, the subcommittee consults with discipline experts to refine the philosophy and rubrics for the local GE areas.

Area 1: English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking (minimum of 6 semester units) including:

A) English Composition (minimum of 3 semester units).

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.

B) Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (minimum of 3 semester units).

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses.

Area 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (minimum of 3 semester units).

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and may include mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer languages, and related disciplines.

Area 3: Arts and Humanities (minimum of 3 semester units).

Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation, and develop students' aesthetic understandings and abilities to make value judgements. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences (minimum of 3 semester units).

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about how people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

Area 5: Natural Sciences (minimum of 3 semester units).

Courses in the natural sciences explore the physical universe, including its life forms, and natural phenomena, as well as how the scientific method is used to advance our understanding of the natural world and drive innovation. Such courses develop students' ability to apply scientific knowledge to real world issues, which shall include learning about effects of human activities on climate and the environment as appropriate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, environmental science, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other related scientific disciplines.

Area 6: Ethnic Studies (minimum of 3 semester).

Courses fulfilling this requirement may include baccalaureate-level courses in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies: Black Studies; African American Studies; Africana Studies; Native American Studies; Chicano/a/x; Latino/a/s Studies/La Raza Studies; and Asian American Studies.

When reviewing courses for approval in Area 6, reviewers should reference the Ethnic Studies rubric below, developed in collaboration with NVC Ethnic Studies faculty, to help guide the evaluation process.

Courses in this area shall meet a minimum of 3 of the 5 following core competencies:

- Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism as analyzed in any one or more of the following: Native American Studies, African American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Latina and Latino American Studies.
- Apply theory and knowledge produced by Native American, African Americans, Asian Americans, and/or Latina and Latino American communities to describe the critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived-experiences, and social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group-affirmation.
- Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age in Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities.
- Critically review how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation, as experienced and enacted by Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and/or Latina and Latino Americans are relevant to current structural issues such as communal, national, international politics as, for example, in immigration, reparations, settler-colonialism, multiculturalism, and language policies.
- Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements in Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities and a just and equitable society.

7.4.1 Other Associate Degree Graduation Requirements

In addition to courses fulfilling the Local GE areas listed above, the Associate Degree (AA or AS) includes additional course requirements specific to Napa Valley College. These graduation requirements, as defined in AP 4100, are more disciplinary-specific and focused in scope. Unless otherwise noted, courses in these areas may be used to meet multiple requirements (double count) including general education and major requirements.

Placement of courses in these areas will be determined by review of the discipline, objectives, and content areas listed in the COR and through consultation with discipline faculty. New courses meeting these graduation requirements will be placed on the agenda

of the GE Subcommittee and included on the consent agenda of the Curriculum Committee.

Health, Wellness and Self-Development

A course that satisfies this requirement must meet the criteria included in at least one of the following categories:

- Physical Fitness: Courses promote physical health through activities that improve strength, flexibility, endurance and overall fitness.
- Athletic Skill Development: Courses offer opportunities for students to learn and improve specific physical skills and practice sports.
- Wellness Education: Courses incorporate principles of healthy living, nutrition, and overall wellness practices.
- Academic and/or Career Advancement: Courses foster exploration and development of academic or career goals.
- Personal Development: Courses focus on enhancement of emotional intelligence, self-awareness and/or creative expression.

The following students are exempt from the Health, Wellness and Self-Development graduation requirement: 1) Students majoring in Health Occupation; 2) Veterans with six months service receive unit credit (Form DD214 must be on file in the Admissions and Records Office) and 3) Students who have already earned a Bachelor degree or higher from an accredited university.

7.5 Cal-GETC Transfer GE Requirements

Beginning Fall 2025, Napa Valley College students pursuing an Associate Degree for Transfer (AA-T or AS-T) complete one pattern for general education: the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) pattern. The specific categories and requirements of this general education pattern and the approval of courses to meet these areas are determined by external bodies. The new Cal-GETC Standards Version 1.4 document was approved by ICAS in May 2025 and can be located on their website. Please contact the Articulation Officer for more information on processes and timelines.

7.6 References and Resources

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, Resolution 09.07 (Spring 2021)
Defining Ethnic Studies and its Four Core Disciplines.

California Code of Regulations, title 5 §55061 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education.

Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates, Cal-GETC Standards version 1.4
(May 2026).

Napa Valley College, Administrative Procedure 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education.

Napa Valley College, Administrative Procedure 4100 Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates.

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