



ACADEMIC SENATE

CSU BAKERSFIELD

Cal-GETC Changes

RES 242503

AAC

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate adopt the recommendations from the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECCo) to change the structure of the current CSUB GE program to meet the requirements set forth in the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC).

RATIONALE: The current CSUB GE program is not in alignment with the single transfer pathway mandated by the CSU system (Cal-GETC). After consulting with potentially impacted departments, GECCo developed a proposal to minimize the changes needed to satisfy Cal-GETC. The recommendations maintain the basic structure and intent of the current CSUB GE program, while satisfying the requirements of Cal-GETC. This proposal will allow CSUB to meet the new requirements in a timely manner with a minimal impact on the current structure.

Attachments:

GECCo Recommendations for New GE Policy Alignment

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Approved by the Academic Senate: October 10, 2024

Sent to the President: October 21, 2024

President Approved: October 22, 2024

Academic Senate

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 7th, 2024

TO: Dr. Melissa Danforth / Chair, Academic Senate

FROM: Dr. Eduardo Montoya / Faculty Director of General Education

RE: GECCo's Recommendations to Align Our GE program with the New CSU GE policy.

AB 928 requires that the CCC, UC, and CSU adopt the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) as the "singular lower division general education transfer pathway." Our current lower division General Education (GE) program aligns with CSU GE Breadth, a 39 semester-unit pattern of lower division GE courses.

In late March 2024, the Board of Trustees voted to align CSU GE Breadth with Cal-GETC in unit count and GE areas. Subsequently, in early May 2024, a revised CSU GE policy was released, aligning with Cal-GETC, and introducing a new CSU GE pattern that requires 5 fewer lower division units (34 semester units).

Below, we provide relevant information regarding GE Breadth and Cal-GETC, an outline of CSUB's current lower division GE program, the General Education Curriculum Committee's (GECCo) recommended structural changes to align our lower division GE program with the new CSU GE pattern, and the required non-structural changes to the GE program resulting from the new CSU GE policy.

Recommended Structural Changes to Lower Division GE

CSU GE Breadth and Cal-GETC

GE-Breadth is a transfer pathway allowing CCC transfers to fulfill lower division GE requirements for any CSU campus prior to transfer. CSUB's lower division GE program aligns with CSU GE Breadth requirements by having students fulfill the requirements of Area A for English Language Communication and Critical Thinking, Area B for Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning, Area C for Arts and Humanities (designated at CSUB as C1, C2, and AI-History), Area D for Social Sciences (designated at CSUB as D and AI-Government), Area E for Lifelong Learning and Self-Development, and Area F for Ethnic Studies. In comparison to GE-Breadth, Cal-GETC includes a one-unit B3 lab course, two courses in Area C, and does not include Area E. Starting in Fall 2025, the new CSU GE pattern will replace CSU GE Breadth.

CSUB's Lower Division GE Program (areas and unit distribution)

- **First Year Seminar (2 units)**
- **Area A and B4 (12 units):** A1 (Oral Communication), A2 (Written Communication), A3 (Critical Thinking), and B4 (Quantitative Reasoning).
- **Area B (6 units):** B1/B3 (Physical Sciences with lab) and B2/B3 (Life Sciences with lab).
- **Area C (9 units):** C1 (Arts), C2 (Humanities), and C3 (AI-History).
- **Area D (6 units):** D1 (Social or Behavioral Science discipline) and D2 (AI-Government).
- **Area E (0 units):** SELF requirement met with a 1–3 unit major or other GE area course that also fulfills the SELF requirement.
- **Area F (3 units):** One course in an Ethnic Studies discipline.
- **Total units:** 38 units

Structural Misalignment of CSUB's Lower Division GE program with the New CSU GE Pattern

- **First-Year Seminar (FYS):** The new CSU GE pattern does not include FYS.
- **Area E:** The new CSU GE pattern does not include a SELF area.
- **Area C (Arts and Humanities):** The new CSU GE pattern requires 2 courses. CSUB currently requires 3 courses (2 courses plus an AI-History course).
- **Area B3 (Laboratory):** The new CSU GE pattern requires a 1-unit lab course. CSUB integrates B3 into B1/B2 courses.

Proposed Changes to CSUB's Lower Division GE Program to Align with the New CSU GE Policy

The proposed changes to our GE program are specifically designed to align with the new CSU GE policy. These adjustments are strictly to ensure compliance with the new CSU GE policy and are not intended to address any existing concerns regarding our current GE program. Given the limited time available to implement these changes, our recommendations minimize changes to the structure of CSUB's lower-division GE program. Faculty, departments, and programs are encouraged to reach out to GECCo at any time to discuss any aspect of our GE program.

Recommended Structural Changes to CSUB's Lower Division GE Program

- **First-Year Seminar:**
 - **Issue:** The new CSU GE pattern does not include an FYS area.
 - **Recommendation:** Remove FYS from lower division GE and make it a 2-unit institutional requirement¹.
- **Area E:**
 - **Issue:** The new CSU GE pattern does not include a SELF area.
 - **Recommendation:** Remove SELF from lower division GE.

¹ FYS is currently waived for CCC transfers, and we expect this practice to continue.

- **Area C:**
 - **Issue:** The new CSU GE pattern prescribes 2 courses, while we require 3 courses (2 courses and AI-History).
 - **Recommendation:** Remove the AI-History (C3) course from lower division GE. Note that AI-History remains a CSU-wide graduation requirement and must still be fulfilled.
- **Area B3 (Laboratory):**
 - **Issue:** The new CSU GE pattern includes a 1-unit B3 course, whereas the current GE program meets area B3 requirement through B1 and B2 courses.
 - **Recommendation:** This practice may continue, but under the new CSU GE policy, the total unit count under areas B1, B2, and B3 must be 7 semester units as opposed to 6 semester units under GE Breadth
- **Unit Count:** 34 units of lower division GE

Required Units

- **Current GE Program:**
 - **38 lower division GE units**
 - **Note:** AI-GV, AI-History, and FYS are integrated into our current GE program.
 - 9-10 upper-division units
 - Total units: 47-48 units
- **Proposed modified GE Program:**
 - **34 units of lower division GE**
 - **5 units of** graduation and institutional requirements (AI-History and FYS)
 - 9-10 upper-division units
 - Total units: 48-49 units

Rationale

- **FYS becoming a 2-unit institutional requirement:** FYS plays an essential role in helping students transition smoothly from high school to university. This high-impact practice introduces students to academic demands and essential campus resources, ensuring they are well-prepared to navigate challenges. FYS also fosters a sense of belonging, which is crucial for retention and graduation rates, and helps cultivate a campus community from the outset. Retaining FYS is integral to our commitment to student success and well-being, particularly for our large population of first-generation students.
- **Removing Area E:** Currently, students can fulfill the SELF requirement through major-specific courses or other courses that also fulfill the SELF requirement. Even without a standalone SELF

requirement, students can still take courses as part of their undergraduate experience that address strategies for self-knowledge and lifelong learning.

- **Removing AI-History from Area C:** Removing AI-History from Area C (Arts and Humanities) allows this area to maintain a clear focus on core arts and humanities subjects.

These recommendations minimize changes to the structure of CSUB's lower division GE program. In summary, we recommend removing FYS, Area E, and AI-History from lower division GE. The essence of the remaining GE areas remains largely unchanged.

Required Non-Structural Changes to GE Program

The required changes to align our GE program with the new CSU GE policy involve the relabeling and renaming of the subject areas.

Relabeling and Renaming of the Subject Areas.

- Area A – English Language Communication and Critical Thinking (A1, A2, A3)
 - New designation: **Subject Area 1** – English Communication (1A, 1B, 1C)
- Area B – Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning (B1, B2, B3, B4, UDB)
 - New designations: Split into two different areas:
 - **Subject Area 2** – Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (2)
 - **Subject Area 5** – Physical and Biological Sciences (5A, 5B, 5C, 5UD)
- Area C – Arts and Humanities (C1, C2, UDC)
 - New designation: **Subject Area 3** – Arts and Humanities (3A, 3B, 3UD)
- Area D – Social Sciences (D, UDD)
 - New designation: **Subject Area 4** – Social and Behavioral Sciences (4A, 4UD)
- Current: Area F – Ethnic Studies
 - New designation: **Subject Area 6** – Ethnic Studies (6)

Summary of GE Catalog and Compendium Changes

The GE Catalog and Compendium have been revised to reflect the recommended and required changes to align our GE program with the new CSU GE policy.