

To: Faculty Senate Steering Committee

From: General Education Committee

Date: April 11, 2022

Re: General Education Program Revision

On November 9, 2021, SUNY established an updated [General Education Framework](#) applicable to all students pursuing a SUNY undergraduate degree. As noted in SUNY's [Implementation Guidance](#), the updated General Education Framework must be in place for the Fall 2023 semester. This memo includes three proposed models for the new General Education Framework at SUNY Cortland. All three models conform to the requirements established by SUNY.

### **Process for Drafting Proposed Models**

In the last several months, the GE Committee has solicited campus-wide responses to the updated General Education Framework. The Committee sought insight from all constituencies across campus through a campus-wide survey and in particular sought insight from academic program coordinators and department chairs. The three proposed models for the new General Education Framework at SUNY Cortland reflect the concerns of these various constituencies.

Throughout this process, the Committee has sought to integrate a wide range of perspectives on General Education. We have focused in particular on how to maintain the evident strengths of the General Education Program at Cortland as we considered its evolution. For more information on General Education, including background on our process and on SUNY's updated General Education Framework, visit [General Education](#) online via [www.cortland.edu/curriculum](http://www.cortland.edu/curriculum).

The Committee would like to recognize all who attended meetings and provided feedback. We have been impressed with the insight, commitment, and passion that our faculty and staff have demonstrated, both for their own disciplines and the General Education Program itself. It is heartening to see that the campus strongly agrees on the importance of General Education for all students at SUNY Cortland.

### **Implementation**

As noted in the attached timeline, the updated General Education Framework will take effect in Fall 2023. The GE Committee is charged with review/revision of student learning outcomes. The GE Committee will inform Faculty Senate of any SLO revisions. In Fall 2022, after a proposed model is approved, the GE Committee will review all current GE courses and will inform departments if clarification or modification is needed to align these courses with the new and/or revised Student Learning Outcomes associated with SUNY's updated General Education Framework. No new curriculum will need to be created to conform to the requirements established by SUNY.

### **Local Program Proposals**

The Committee has provided three proposed models for vote. We urge all to bear in mind that some GE requirements are completed within the major and that degree requirements are distinct from GE requirements. To assist in transfer mobility, we have named the new GE categories in a manner consistent with SUNY's updated General Education Framework. The numbers assigned to these new GE categories are tentative, pending recommendations from SUNY and SUNY Cortland Student Registration and Record Services. Only one proposal may be instituted.

Current Policy	Proposed Policy A	Proposed Policy B	Proposed Policy C
<p><b>NOTES FOR FACULTY SENATE (NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN CATALOG)</b></p> <p><b>Required Credit Hours</b> The credits needed to fulfill General Education requirements vary based on several factors. For the purposes of comparison, the committee has standardized the required credit hours across each model. This standardization assumes that (1) no courses fulfill more than one category; (2) each category will be fulfilled with the minimum number of required credits; and (3) the credits earned in Writing Intensive courses are excluded. In practice, students will often need to take less (or, less often, more) credits to fulfill the General Education Requirements.</p> <p>Using these assumptions, the required credit hours needed to complete this model is <b>40</b>.</p> <p><b>Appropriate Courses for “World History and Global Awareness”</b> Though SUNY allows courses in the current category “Western Civilization” to fulfill the new category “World History and Global Awareness,” the committee recommends instead that courses in this new category be non-Western in focus. In the new model, courses that fulfill the current category “Western Civilization” will be placed in other categories, in most cases “Humanities” and “Social Sciences.”</p>	<p><b>NOTES FOR FACULTY SENATE (NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN CATALOG)</b></p> <p><b>Required Credit Hours</b> The credits needed to fulfill General Education requirements vary based on several factors. 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In the new model, courses that fulfill the current category “Western Civilization” will be placed in other categories, in most cases “Humanities” and “Social Sciences.”</p>
<p><b>410.05 GENERAL EDUCATION</b></p> <p>The purpose of General Education is to provide students with an intellectual and cultural basis for their development as informed individuals in our society. This requires that they understand the ideas that have formed our own civilization, that they appreciate other cultures and that they have knowledge of the fundamental principles that govern the physical universe.</p>	<p><b>410.05 GENERAL EDUCATION</b></p> <p>General Education at SUNY Cortland plays a foundational role in preparing Cortland graduates to engage with and contribute to the world. Students will practice foundational skills for personal success and engage with different ways of thinking.</p>		
<p><b>General Education Requirements</b></p> <p>The Cortland General Education Program fulfills all SUNY General Education requirements and includes elements specific to the Cortland degree. There are 11</p>	<p><b>General Education Requirements</b></p> <p>The Cortland General Education (GE) Program fulfills all SUNY General Education requirements and includes elements specific to the Cortland degree. Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of SUNY approved course work.</p>	<p><b>General Education Requirements</b></p> <p>The Cortland General Education (GE) Program fulfills all SUNY General Education requirements and includes elements specific to the Cortland degree. Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of SUNY approved course work.</p>	<p><b>General Education Requirements</b></p> <p>The Cortland General Education (GE) Program fulfills all SUNY General Education requirements and includes elements specific to the Cortland degree. Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of SUNY approved course work.</p>

<p>required categories that must be met, and students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of SUNY approved course work (categories 1-10). Most categories require one course, with the exception of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreign Language, where the requirement varies depending upon degree program</li> <li>Basic Communication, which is met through a combination of writing and presentation skills course work as described. CPN 100/102 and CPN 101/103 count towards the SUNY GE credit total, for a maximum of eight credit hours. The use of a single course to satisfy more than one category is allowed but no single course may be used to satisfy more than two General Education categories.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cortland General Education Categories</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantitative Skills</li> <li>Natural Sciences</li> <li>Social Science</li> <li>United States History and Society</li> <li>Western Civilization — not required</li> <li>Contrasting Cultures</li> <li>Humanities</li> <li>The Arts</li> <li>Foreign Language — refer to degree program</li> <li>Basic Communication       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Writing Studies (CPN) - up to eight credit hours of CPN may count towards GE credit hour total</li> <li>and</li> <li>- Presentation Skills (PRES)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Prejudice and Discrimination</li> <li>Science, Technology, Values and Society</li> </ol>	<p>Students must complete coursework in 11 GE categories:</p> <p><b>Required Categories and Minimum Credits</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication – Written and Oral:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing Studies (6)</li> <li>Presentation Skills (3)</li> </ol> </li> <li>Diversity: Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (3)</li> <li>Mathematics (and Quantitative Reasoning) (3)</li> <li>Natural Sciences (and Scientific Reasoning) (4)</li> <li>World Languages (3)*</li> <li>Humanities (3)</li> <li>The Arts (3)</li> <li>Social Sciences (3)</li> <li>US History and Civic Engagement (3)</li> <li>World History and Global Awareness (3)</li> <li>Science, Technology, Values and Society (3)</li> </ol> <p><b>Core Competencies</b> Fulfilled by coursework in the major</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical Thinking and Reasoning</li> <li>Information Literacy</li> </ol> <p>*Additional credits may be required by degree program</p>	<p>Students must complete coursework in at least ten GE categories, including five required categories:</p> <p><b>Required Categories and Minimum Credits</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication – Written and Oral:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing Studies (6)</li> <li>Presentation Skills (3)</li> </ol> </li> <li>Diversity: Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (3)</li> <li>Mathematics (and Quantitative Reasoning) (3)</li> <li>Natural Sciences (and Scientific Reasoning) (4)</li> <li>World Languages (3)*</li> </ol> <p><b>Optional Categories and Minimum Credits</b> Select six courses. These courses must fulfill at least five of the six optional categories.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Humanities (3)</li> <li>The Arts (3)</li> <li>Social Sciences (3)</li> <li>US History and Civic Engagement (3)</li> <li>World History and Global Awareness (3)</li> <li>Science, Technology, Values and Society (3)</li> </ol> <p><b>Core Competencies</b> Fulfilled by coursework in the major</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical Thinking and Reasoning</li> <li>Information Literacy</li> </ol> <p>*Additional credits may be required by degree program</p>	<p>Students must complete coursework in at least ten GE categories, including five required categories:</p> <p><b>Required Categories and Minimum Credits</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication – Written and Oral:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing Studies (6)</li> <li>Presentation Skills (3)</li> </ol> </li> <li>Diversity: Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (3)</li> <li>Mathematics (and Quantitative Reasoning) (3)</li> <li>Natural Sciences (and Scientific Reasoning) (4)</li> <li>World Languages (3)*</li> </ol> <p><b>Optional Categories and Minimum Credits:</b> Select five of the six optional categories.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Humanities (3)</li> <li>The Arts (3)</li> <li>Social Sciences (3)</li> <li>US History and Civic Engagement (3)</li> <li>World History and Global Awareness (3)</li> <li>Science, Technology, Values and Society (3)</li> </ol> <p><b>Core Competencies:</b> Fulfilled by coursework in the major</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical Thinking and Reasoning</li> <li>Information Literacy</li> </ol> <p>*Additional credits may be required by degree program</p>
<p><b>Foreign Language Requirement: Bachelor of Arts Candidates</b></p> <p>Students enrolled in a B.A. program must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>successfully complete the fourth semester (202) of a college-level foreign language sequence or</li> <li>confirm proficiency equivalent to successful completion of the fourth semester (202) of a college-</li> </ul>	<p><b>Foreign Language Requirement: Bachelor of Arts Candidates</b></p> <p><i>No changes proposed for this section of policies in catalog.</i></p>		

level foreign language sequence through a testing program approved by the Modern Languages Department.

**Foreign Language Requirement:  
Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science  
in Education and Bachelor of Fine Arts  
Candidates**

Students enrolled in a B.S., B.S.Ed. or B.F.A. program in the School of Arts and Sciences or the School of Professional Studies need only one semester of a foreign language with the exception of speech and language disabilities majors (SLD/SLDW), who must successfully complete the fourth semester (202) of a college-level foreign language sequence. Students in the program listed above may meet the foreign language requirements by:

1. successful completion of a one-semester college-level foreign language course (101) or the equivalent;
2. having earned a final grade of 85 or higher in the third year of high school foreign language study or a passing grade in any subsequent year of high school foreign language study; or
3. having earned a score of 85 or higher on a foreign language Regents Exam or a local exam aligned with a discontinued Regents Exam.

Students enrolled in the B.S. program in early childhood, childhood, early childhood and childhood, adolescence education, inclusive special education and the B.S. in Speech and Hearing Science must

- successfully complete the second semester (102) of a college-level foreign language sequence or
- confirm proficiency equivalent to successful completion of the second semester (102) of a college-level foreign language sequence through a testing program approved by the Modern Languages Department.

*Note: Some departments require specified*

<p><i>courses in foreign language in support of their major program requirements in addition to those described above.</i></p>			
<p><b>Writing Intensives</b></p> <p>Writing intensive courses must be taken at SUNY Cortland and must include at least one course in the major; the other course can be in or out of the major. Students must successfully complete CPN 100 or CPN 102 and CPN 101 or CPN 103 with a grade of C- or better before enrolling in a Writing Intensive course.</p>	<p><b>Writing Intensives</b></p> <p><i>No changes proposed for this section of policies in catalog.</i></p>		
<p><b>Transfer and General Education</b></p> <p>For information on transfer policies related to General Education, including course work and waivers, see Transfer Credit Policies and Evaluation under <a href="#">Academic Policies</a>.</p>	<p><b>Transfer and General Education</b></p> <p>For information on transfer policies related to General Education, including course work and waivers, see Transfer Credit Policies and Evaluation under <a href="#">Academic Policies</a>.</p> <p>Any approved SUNY GE course taken at another SUNY college will be accepted into the related Cortland GE category. Students who have completed the GE requirements in full at another SUNY college will not have to complete further coursework. Students who have not completed the SUNY GE requirements in full at another SUNY college must meet the SUNY Cortland learning outcomes of these categories to receive GE credits (e.g., four credits of natural sciences).</p> <p>Courses from non-SUNY institutions and courses for the Cortland category Science, Technology, Values and Society, also may be transferred, providing that they meet the learning outcomes of these categories.</p> <p>Science, Technology, Values and Society is a SUNY Cortland GE category, and will not transfer as GE credit hours to another college.</p> <p>Transfer students may be granted up to <b>one</b> waiver that can be applied toward meeting the Science, Technology, Values and Society requirement.</p>	<p><b>Transfer and General Education</b></p> <p>For information on transfer policies related to General Education, including course work and waivers, see Transfer Credit Policies and Evaluation under <a href="#">Academic Policies</a>.</p> <p>Any approved SUNY GE course taken at another SUNY college will be accepted into the related Cortland GE category. Students who have completed the GE requirements in full at another SUNY college will not have to complete further coursework. Students who have not completed the SUNY GE requirements in full at another SUNY college must meet the SUNY Cortland learning outcomes of these categories to receive GE credits (e.g., four credits of natural sciences).</p> <p>Courses from non-SUNY institutions and courses for the Cortland category Science, Technology, Values and Society, also may be transferred, providing that they meet the learning outcomes of these categories.</p> <p>Science, Technology, Values and Society is a SUNY Cortland GE category, and will not transfer as GE credit hours to another college.</p>	<p><b>Transfer and General Education</b></p> <p>For information on transfer policies related to General Education, including course work and waivers, see Transfer Credit Policies and Evaluation under <a href="#">Academic Policies</a>.</p> <p>Any approved SUNY GE course taken at another SUNY college will be accepted into the related Cortland GE category. Students who have completed the GE requirements in full at another SUNY college will not have to complete further coursework. Students who have not completed the SUNY GE requirements in full at another SUNY college must meet the SUNY Cortland learning outcomes of these categories to receive GE credits (e.g., four credits of natural sciences).</p> <p>Courses from non-SUNY institutions and courses for the Cortland category Science, Technology, Values and Society, also may be transferred, providing that they meet the learning outcomes of these categories.</p> <p>Science, Technology, Values and Society is a SUNY Cortland GE category, and will not transfer as GE credit hours to another college.</p>
<p><b>Academic Planning and General Education</b></p> <p>Academic planning is key to fulfilling all degree requirements and ensuring that</p>	<p><b>Academic Planning and General Education</b></p> <p><i>No changes proposed for this section of policies in catalog.</i></p>		

General Education requirements are integrated with planning for the major and other academic opportunities such as study abroad.

Utilizing the following resources, students are able to ensure that General Education requirements are fulfilled through academic planning:

1. Degree Works, our campus degree audit system, will identify requirements and track student progress.
2. The online Course Schedule allows students to search by General Education courses offered in an upcoming semester through search-by-attribute feature.
3. A list of all approved General Education courses is provided in the following section of this College Catalog.
4. Faculty advisors and the Advisement and Transition Office work with students to assist with all academic planning.

Note: Highlighted areas represent changes to GE section of current catalog.

## Timeline to Meet SUNY Mandated Implementation for Fall 2023

