

**Submitted by the Hunter College Senate General Education Committee  
to the Senate, March 14, 2012 for ratification**

Background

The CUNY Pathways initiative requires Hunter College to examine its general education requirements and ensure that they are consistent with the Pathways initiative. Fortunately, Hunter's GER and the Pathways framework are reasonably well-aligned. The Framework proposed below articulates the CUNY Pathways requirements onto the existing Hunter College GER. The aligned general education requirement will be called the Hunter College Common Core.

This framework is not the catalog document for the Hunter College Common Core. The Senate is asked to ratify the framework for the HC Common Core. It is into this framework that specific courses will go consistent with CUNY requirements. While there are many nuanced details, the overarching requirements are really twofold: all courses within the Common Core must satisfy the Pathways learning objectives and each course can only satisfy a single requirement.

The CUNY Common Core is composed of two parts: the Required Core and the Flexible Core. Each part is further separated into categories each having a set of learning objectives. Each category will have a set of courses that fulfill the category requirement and each college can choose to restrict the category. However, students who fulfill a category at a CUNY institution are deemed to have fulfilled the same category at any CUNY institution.

Introduction to the Framework of the Hunter College Common Core

General education articulates the academic values of our institution. Hunter College is committed to providing a 21<sup>st</sup> century liberal arts education that simultaneously draws upon classical values and looks forward to the needs of a world transformed by modern technology and globalization. The current GER was enacted in 2001 to articulate these values to the student body. In the intervening decade, the Mellon Committee affirmed the broad framework of the GER. Thus the GER Committee and the Task Force both concurred that the alignment of our current GER with the CUNY Common Core was the most expeditious and appropriate approach to the Pathways initiative.

The Hunter GER mandates a breadth of experiences across many disciplinary boundaries in humanities, social sciences, the natural sciences, the arts, and in foreign languages and then requires students to delve more deeply in two disciplines. The curriculum also reflects the diverse and pluralistic society in which we live. Hunter graduates are expected to master skills in writing and quantitative reasoning, and these are reflected in the curriculum. Lastly, the GER reflects the reality that many of our students received their initial education in other countries and need a solid grounding in American history and politics.

The Hunter Common Core is an alignment of the current GER with the CUNY Common Core that enables the creation of a general education requirement that continues to articulate the Hunter values while meeting the CUNY timetable. The GER Committee anticipates and encourages the continual reevaluation of the Hunter Common Core after the requirement is enacted. However, as a initial (Phase 1) approach to creating a coherent general education requirement that is ready for student enrollment in Fall 2013, the GER Committee recommends aligning the current GER and the CUNY Common Core. The details follow:

## **Framework for the Hunter College Common Core**

### **The Required Core (12 credits)**

- 1) English Composition (6 credits, 1 W intensive). The first course in this category is satisfied by ENGL 120. Additional courses in English and other disciplines that meet the learning objectives and have ENGL 120 as a prerequisite complete the category. All additional courses (and all sections of each course) must meet the requirements for the W designation and, as such, all courses in this category, except ENGL 120, should be W courses.
  - a. Articulation: Stage 1A and Stage 2A.
  - b. All courses in this category will be 3 credit, 3 hour courses.
  
- 2) Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning (3 credits). It is anticipated that all courses within Stage 1B will articulate to this category. Three credits of MATH 125, MATH 150, and MATH 155 will be used to satisfy the requirement. MATH 125, MATH 150 and MATH 155 are required for several majors and thus are part of the STEM variant and can exceed the 3credit/3hour requirement. Courses that have MATH 101 (not in the Core) as a prerequisite are acceptable.
  - a. Articulation: Stage 1B
  - b. There are no exemptions for this category – students must fulfill this requirement with a course appropriate to their prerequisite knowledge.
  
- 3) Physical and Life Sciences (3 credits). This category roughly articulates to the lab science requirement of Stage 2E. However, courses in this category must be 3 credits, meet for only 3 hours and must meet the learning objectives of the category. Courses can also be co-requisite with courses in Scientific World. Courses with more than 3 credits that are required for STEM majors can be included (the so-called STEM Variant). Many courses meet the STEM variant and are ANTHP 101, 102; BIOL 100, 102, 125, 150, 160, CHEM 102, 104, 105, 106, 111, 112, 120, 121, PGEOG 130, PHYS 110, 111, 120, 121. However, the college must offer enough 3cr/3hr courses for non-STEM majors before the STEM variant can be activated. The following courses will be offered and are expected to provide sufficient seats for non-science majors:
  - a. 3cr/3hr – linked to Scientific World: ASTRO 100; GEOL 101; PHYS 101
  - b. 3cr – not linked to Scientific World: CHEM 101, The Human Species (ANTHP), Digital Earth (PGEOG)

### **The Flexible Core (18 credits)**

- 1) World Culture and Global Issues (3 credits). This category will include the first course in a four semester sequence of foreign language. (For more details on the foreign language requirement, see the College Option below). Students who have placed out of the first semester course must fulfill World Culture with another course appropriate to the category.
  - a. Articulation: Appropriate courses from GER Core (Stages 2B or 2C).
  
- 2) US Experience in its Diversity—Focus on American History and Government (3 credits, 1W). This category will include courses that fit the learning objectives but are focused on American History. Courses in this category must be writing intensive with a W designation. The inaugural offering of the Hunter College Common Core (Fall 2013) will restrict this category to those courses in Stage 1C – HIST 151, HIST 152, POLSC 110. All sections of all 3 courses must be W intensive.

- 3) Creative Expression (3 credits). It is expected that courses from Stage 2D will reside in this category.
- 4) Individual & Society (6 credits). This category will contain two areas and students must take one course from each area. The two areas are: Area 1-Social Science and Area 2-Humanities, Cultures and Ideas). It is expected that courses from Stage 2B will reside in Area 1-Social Science and courses from Stage 2C-Humanities, Cultures and Ideas will reside in Area 2.
- 5) Scientific World (3 credits). It is expected that non-laboratory courses from Stage 2E will reside in this category. It is also expected that some courses from Stage 2B or 2C or Focused Exposure will meet the learning objectives and be appropriate for this category.

#### College Option – Foreign Language and/or Focused Study

- 1) Students who matriculate into Hunter College with fewer than 30 credits must complete 12 credits of the College Option; those who matriculate with more than 30 credits but with no Associate's degree must complete 9 credits of the College Option; and those who matriculate with an Associate's degree must complete 6 credits of the College Option. This requirement is called the 12/9/6 College Option in the Pathways regulations.
- 2) The College Option will highlight Hunter College's commitment to foreign language and to encouraging students to develop depth in an area outside of the major (focused study).
- 3) Students must complete four semesters of a foreign language or demonstrate equivalent competency as per regulation #1 above. Note: four semesters of a foreign language must be sequential and in a single language.
- 4) College Option – Focused Study. Students who need two or more Focused Study courses must fulfill this requirement by taking two courses at the 200 level or above in a recognized major, minor, or certificate program outside the student's primary major. Students who need only one Focused Study course must fulfill the requirement with a 200 level course outside the primary major.
- 5) A detailed breakdown of language and focused study as a function of matriculation status is shown in Table 1.

#### Overlays – addition requirements that do not necessarily add coursework

- 1) The Writing requirement will be an overlay. Students must complete 3, 2, or 1 W designated courses based upon their matriculation status (See Table 2). Note that courses in US Experience in its Diversity—Focus on American History and the second course of English Composition, if taken at Hunter College, automatically fulfill the W overlay. Any course with a W attribute can be used to fulfill this requirement, including courses taken from the Core, courses fulfilling requirements for a major or a minor or certificate, or elective courses. This requirement must be fulfilled by a W course taken at Hunter College.

- 2) The Pluralism and Diversity (P&D) requirement will be an overlay. Students must complete 4 or 2 P&D Designated courses based upon their matriculation status (See Table 3). Students may not use two courses from the same P&D Group to fulfill the P&D requirement. Courses that fulfill requirements for the major, minor, Core, or electives can be used to fulfill the P&D requirement. Transfer courses that articulate into P&D designated courses can be used to satisfy the requirement.

**Table 1 – College Option: Foreign Language and Focused Study**

A detailed breakdown of the requirements for each possible matriculation status.

Matriculation Status	# Foreign Language semesters completed towards 4 semester proficiency* upon matriculation	Semesters of Proficiency Required for Graduation	#Courses Required to be completed in Foreign Language Sequence	# Courses Required in Focused Study	Total # of College Option Credits for graduation
Fewer than 30 credits	0	4	4	0	12
	1	4	3	1	12
	2	4	2	2	12
	3	4	1	3	12
	4	4	0	4	12
More than 30 credits but no Associates Degree	0	3	3	0	9
	1	4	3	0	9
	2	4	2	1	9
	3	4	1	2	9
	4	4	0	3	9
Associates Degree	0	2	2	0	6
	1	3	2	0	6
	2	4	2	0	6
	3	4	1	1	6
	4	4	0	2	6

\*Semesters completed or equivalent proficiency demonstrated. The semesters completed must be within a single sequence (one language). Four semesters completed is equivalent to completion of two years of language study.

**Table 2 Writing Intensive (W) Requirement**

Matriculation Status	# of W courses required from Hunter College
Fewer than 30 credits	3
30 credits – 59 credits	2
60 credits or more	1

**Table 3 Pluralism & Diversity (P&D) Requirement**

Matriculation Status	# of P&D courses required from Hunter College
Fewer than 30 credits	4, 1 from each group
30 credits or more	2 from Groups A, B, or C but no two from same group