

SENATE MODIFIES GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

In Spring 2001, the College adopted a new set of general education requirements. In Spring 2003 several important modifications to this requirement were made. The recent changes in the GER are: (1) a change to liberalize "Stage 3—Focused Exposure" of the Core Requirement. Originally, the writing requirement (now a graduation requirement) was incorporated in stage 3. Those two requirements—writing and stage 3—have now been separated. Focused exposure courses no longer need to be writing intensive, and writing intensive courses no longer need to be at stage 3. (2) a change in the writing requirement to be a graduation requirement. The GER applies to all students who matriculated at Hunter since Fall 2001 except CUNY AA/AS transfer students who are exempt from the core requirement. Since the writing requirement went from being part of the core requirement to a graduation requirement, new CUNY AA/AS transfer students also must now fulfill the graduation requirement in writing.

A summary description of the revised General Education Requirements follows. The complete GER, including a listing of approved courses will be posted on the Senate web site <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/senate>. Copies are also available in the Senate Office upon request.

THE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

(Pending approval by the CUNY Board of Trustees on 9/29/03)

Introduction

All students who matriculate at Hunter College in Fall 2001 and later must fulfill the General Education Requirement (GER), a set of competencies, knowledge areas, and perspectives that Hunter College considers essential to the intellectual development of its undergraduates. Students are strongly urged to complete most of the GER before going into their major and minor. Without the necessary background found in the GER, you may find yourself at a disadvantage in your major courses. *However*, students in highly structured programs, such as the sciences, mathematics, foreign languages, and BFA, BMus, and BS degree, should begin their major and minor courses and their Core requirements concurrently.

The General Education Requirement is comprised of the Core Requirement, consisting of designated courses at various academic levels, and three graduation requirements: the Writing Requirement, the Foreign Language Requirement and the Pluralism and Diversity Requirement. Transfer students who have earned an AA/AS degree from a CUNY college and who matriculate in Fall 2003 and after are exempt from the Core requirements of the GER, but must fulfill the three graduation requirements of Writing, Pluralism & Diversity, and Foreign Language. Transfer students who have earned an AA/AS degree from a CUNY college and who matriculate between Fall 2001 and Summer 2003 are exempt from the Core Requirement and the Writing Requirement. Evaluated transfer credits sometimes can be used to fulfill the GER requirements. All transfer students should carefully check their evaluated courses against the GER. Students transferring from a CUNY school without an AA or AS degree should seek an advisor to help determine which courses they may use to satisfy Core requirements. For overlaps and restrictions on these different requirements, and their relation to major and minor requirements, see the section below on Regulations.

Summary

The Core Requirement, comprised of designated courses, is divided into three sequential Stages: 1- Academic Foundations; 2-Broad Exposure; and 3-Focused Exposure.

Stage 1-Academic Foundations: (Students should complete this stage within their first 30 credits.) The Academic Foundations Stage includes courses in mathematics, composition, and history that provide students with the analytic, interpretive, communication, and historical competencies and perspectives critical to academic success.

Stage 2-Broad Exposure: (Students should complete this stage within their first 45 credits.) The Broad Exposure Stage continues with courses in the social sciences, humanities, arts, and natural sciences to introduce students to a broad range of disciplinary perspectives and areas of knowledge.

Stage 3-Focused Exposure: (Students should complete this stage within their first 60 credits.) This Stage requires students

to select *advanced courses outside their major* (students with more than one major should see the Regulations, in the attached chart). The Focused Exposure Stage includes courses in areas that the student has selected to study in greater depth, in the expectation that more advanced students should do more analysis and research.

Graduation Requirements: comprised of the Writing Requirement, the Foreign Language Requirement, and the Pluralism and Diversity Requirement.

Writing Requirement: The Writing Requirement (the "W" designation) ensures that all students have significant writing experiences. It is recommended that students fulfill the Writing Requirement early in their academic career in order to prepare effectively for advanced coursework and for the CPE. The maximum number of writing intensive -- "W" designated -- courses a student must take is 3 (see the section below on Writing Requirement). All "W" courses must be taken at Hunter. The "W"-designated courses are indicated in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Foreign Language Requirement: The goal of this requirement is to provide facility in a language other than English and to enable students to access non-English literatures. In learning a foreign language and studying its literature and cultures, students acquire new perspectives on how peoples think, view the world, express themselves, and communicate with one another. Language learning expands one's ability to create and discover new meaning in one's own language and culture. An awareness of contrasting cultural concepts sensitizes students to the differences between their own culture and others - increasingly important as the communities of the world have become so interconnected and interdependent. This is a graduation requirement. The requirement of four semesters of language courses or an equivalent combination of college and high school courses is fulfilled only if all four semesters are completed in the same language.

Foreign Language Requirements for Different Degrees: All BA, BFA, and BMus students must fulfill a graduation requirement of intermediate (fourth semester) foreign language proficiency. It is recommended that students begin the first two semesters of foreign language proficiency within their first 30 credits at Hunter. Although intermediate foreign language proficiency is required only by the time a student graduates, gaps in language instruction are very undesirable and it is strongly recommended that students complete all their foreign language requirements in consecutive semesters. Students in BS programs should check the requirements for their specific program. Students who change from a BS to a BA program must meet the foreign language requirement for the BA degree.

Pluralism and Diversity Requirement is comprised of designated courses in four groups (A, B, C, D). A course can satisfy only one of these four groups, though it may also satisfy a requirement in the Core, and in the minor and major.

CORE REQUIREMENT

Regulations for Core Requirement:

1. A course may be used to satisfy only one Core Requirement.
2. No more than two courses per department or program may be applied to satisfy Core requirements. Exceptions to this are courses in Stage 1: Academic Foundations.
3. All courses satisfying Core, Stage 2 Groups A through D must be from different departments or programs.
4. Students may apply up to two courses from their major to satisfy Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Core; only one of these is permitted to fulfill a Stage 1 requirement, and only one a Stage 2 requirement.

(Note: Students who have declared two or more majors can use up to two courses from one of those majors to satisfy Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Core. Only one of these is permitted to fulfill a Stage 1 requirement, and only one a Stage 2 requirement. Courses from minors and any additional majors can be used without limit to satisfy Stages 1, 2, and 3 of the Core, and the Pluralism & Diversity Requirement.)

Stage 1: Academic Foundations

This Stage involves basic academic skills needed for success in the liberal arts and sciences. Accordingly students should complete this Stage as early as possible, preferably within their first 30 credits at Hunter.

Exemption may be granted on the basis of placement exams or other criteria as determined by the Hunter College Senate. Such exemptions do not yield credit unless they are based on the successful completion of college courses.

Group A 3 credits English Composition

Group B 3 credits Quantitative Reasoning

Group C 3 credits US History

Stage 2: Broad Exposure

These courses should be completed within a student's first three semesters (full time) or 45 credits (part time) at Hunter.

Group A 3 credits Survey of Literature Written in English

Group B 6 credits Social Science: People and their Societies

Group C 3 credits Humanities: Cultures and Ideas: Literature, Philosophy, Classics

Group D 3 credits Visual and Performing Arts: Media, Art, Dance, Film, Music, Theater

Group E 7 credits Natural Science: Two courses are required, one of which must include a laboratory component. These may be in the same discipline.

Stage 3: Focused Exposure

These courses are intended to give students the opportunity to study selected subjects outside their major department or program in greater depth than in Stage 2. Usually, these courses will be beyond the 100 level. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that students take a first course in the same discipline. A student must take one course from Group A and one course from Group B in Stage 3.

Group A 3 credits **Humanities or Visual and Performing Arts:** One course beyond the introductory level is required, chosen from humanities or the visual or performing arts.

Group B 3 credits **Social Sciences or Natural Sciences/Mathematics:** One course beyond the introductory level is required, chosen from social sciences or natural sciences/mathematics.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Writing Requirement

Students matriculating with fewer than 31 credits must take three courses in significant writing ("W" designated courses) at Hunter College. Transfer students matriculating with 31 to 59 credits must take at least two "W" designated courses at Hunter College. Transfer students matriculating with 60 to 90 credits must take at least one "W" designated course at Hunter College. (ENGL 120 does not count as "W" designated course.)

Foreign Language Requirement

Hunter College currently offers the following programs to meet foreign language requirements:

Chinese (CHIN), French (FREN), German (GERMN), Greek (GRK), Hebrew (HEBR), Italian (ITAL), Japanese (JPN), Latin (LAT), Polish (POL), Russian (RUSS), Spanish (SPAN), Swahili (SWA), Ukrainian (UKR), Yoruba (YOR).

Pluralism And Diversity Requirement

All students, including transfer students, who entered Hunter College in the Fall 1993 semester or later are required to complete 12 credits in designated courses that address issues of pluralism and diversity.

Group A	3 credits	A course focusing on scholarship about major practical or theoretical issues (e.g., artistic, economic, geographic, literary, political, scientific, or social) that emerge from, are reflected in, or are principally derived from the historical conditions, perspectives, and/or intellectual traditions of non-European societies, particularly those of Africa, Asia, Latin America, or those indigenous to the Americas.
Group B	3 credits	A course focusing on scholarship about major practical or theoretical issues (e.g., artistic, economic, geographic, literary, political, scientific, or social) that emerge from, are reflected in, or are principally derived from the historical conditions, perspectives, immigrant experiences, and/or intellectual traditions of one or more of the following groups in the United States of America: African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans.
Group C	3 credits	A course focusing on scholarship about major practical or theoretical issues (e.g., artistic, economic, geographic, literary, political, scientific, or social) that emerge from, are reflected in, or are principally derived from the historical conditions, perspectives, and/or intellectual traditions of women and/or issues of gender or sexual orientation.
Group D	3 credits	A course focusing on scholarship about major practical or theoretical issues (e.g., artistic, economic, geographic, literary, political, scientific, or social) that emerge from, are reflected in, or are principally derived from the historical conditions, perspectives, and/or intellectual traditions of Europe, including the ways in which pluralism and diversity have been addressed.