

General Education Program Rules

The following rules govern the main elements of the General Education Program (GEC), including the First Year Experience, Pathways, Knowledge Areas, and Culminating Experience Courses.

Rules for Program Management

1. Each General Education course must address at least one of the basic skills: creative thinking, critical thinking, diversity awareness, information literacy, oral communication, professional competencies, quantitative reasoning, and written communication.
2. Online offerings must be provided such that online students are able to complete the Gen Ed program over the course of a full academic year.

First Year Experience

PADstone

1. An approved PADstone (e.g., XYZ 184) may be offered with multiple subtopics as long as outcomes are still being met. Sub-topics are submitted to the General Education Committee for review and are shared with the campus community.
2. The PADstone classes will be capped at twenty (20) students.
3. Transfer students who have not completed their General Education requirements and who have not transferred at least 45 credits must complete a PADstone course if they have not completed equivalent coursework (courses with equivalent outcomes as determined by the GEC and/or Registrar).

Quantitative Reasoning

1. Quantitative reasoning (QR) courses are to be capped at a maximum of thirty-five (35) students. Every QR course must have a minimum pre-requisite of a placement resulting in eligibility for MATH 101 or successful completion of MATH 100B with a grade of C or higher. QR courses may have more demanding pre-requisites as long as these imply that the minimum pre-requisite is met.

Academic Writing I

1. The Academic Writing I classes are to be capped at twenty-five (25) students. Academic Writing I courses must have a pre-requisite of "Students must take an appropriate assessment before enrolling in an Academic Writing I course." Students may enroll in ENG 101A after self-assessment or if they did not achieve the appropriate assessment. For ENG 101B Stretch, the pre-requisite is completion of ENG 101A with a D- or higher. If taking ENG 101A and ENG 101B Stretch, a student must complete both A and B. In order to enroll in Academic Writing II, students must complete AWI or ENG 101B with a C- or higher.

Rules for Students

1. All students except transfer students must complete their First Year Experience courses (PADstone, Academic Writing I, and Quantitative Reasoning) by the end of the quarter in which they complete 60 credits.
2. Transfer students without a Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) must satisfy the First Year Experience within 3 quarters of enrolling at CWU.

Pathways

The Pathways are intended to excite and engage students in their General Education experience and help them draw connections between different disciplines and perspectives on a given topic.

Rules for Students

1. In fulfilling the required Knowledge Areas, students must take at least three (3) courses in a single Pathway.

Rules for Course Management

1. Courses in the Pathway will provide opportunities to draw connections to ideas from other courses and experiences in the Pathway.
2. Each course within a Pathway must address at least two (2) of the criteria listed for that Pathway.
3. Courses may be offered in up to three (3) Pathways. Each course may be in up to three (3) Pathways and must meet at least two (2) of the criteria of each of those pathways.
4. Online offerings must be provided such that online students are able to complete at least three (3) courses in at least one (1) pathway within an academic year.

Knowledge Areas

Rules for Students

1. Students must take one course in each of the eight Knowledge Areas.
2. Courses from a single department or interdisciplinary program may count toward no more than two Knowledge Areas in General Education.
3. All students except transfer students must complete Academic Writing II by the end of the quarter in which they complete 90 credits.
4. Transfer students without a Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) must complete an Academic Writing II course within 3 quarters of enrolling at CWU.

Program Rules for Offering Courses

1. All courses offered in a Knowledge Area must meet ALL outcomes in that Knowledge Area.
2. A given course may only be offered within one (1) Knowledge Area.

3. There is no limit to the number of courses that a program may offer within a given Knowledge Area.
4. All courses must be offered at least once every other year.
5. The Academic Writing II courses are to be capped at twenty (25) students.
6. All Knowledge Area courses must be four (4) or five (5) credits.
7. All classes in Physical and Natural World must include a lab component. A lab component can take the form of: 1) a separate contact type designation (see CWUR 2-50-060 Curriculum Rules for Implementation) of either LAB (Laboratory) or LEP (Lecture and Practice) that is associated with activities or exercises that clearly meet expectations of a laboratory component and constitute a significant amount of graded work; 2) a number of hands-on lab activities comprising a significant amount of graded work within a course described as “integrated lecture and lab”; or 3) a number of significant graded exercises typical of what might occur in a laboratory that could be conducted either online or independently by the students that approximated the typical work requirements of a laboratory component.

Culminating Experience Courses

1. Programs may propose capstone courses to satisfy the Culminating Experience and simultaneously satisfy a department program requirement.
2. Culminating Experience courses may have prerequisites.
3. General culminating experience options will be offered for students who do not have major-specific Culminating Experience courses available to them and must be capped at 20 students.