

## **General Education Program Rules**

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

### **First Year Experience**

#### ***First Year Experience***

1. An approved First Year Experience (e.g., XYZ 184) may be offered with multiple sub-topics as long as outcomes are still being met. Sub-topics are submitted to the General Education Committee for review and shared with the campus community.
2. The First Year Experience classes will be capped at 20 students.
3. Transfer students who have not completed their General Education requirements must complete this 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 math placement test score resulting in placement into Math 100C 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 achieve an appropriate test score or successfully complete transitional English before enrolling in an Academic Writing I course. Academic Writing II courses must have a pre-requisite of "Students must achieve a C- or better in Academic Writing I prior to taking Academic Writing II".

#### **Rules for Students**

1. All students except those who transfer to CWU must complete their First Year Experience courses (First Year Experience, Academic Writing I, and Quantitative Reasoning) by the end of the quarter in which they complete 60 credits. Transfer students without a Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) must complete a First Year Experience course within 3 quarters of enrolling at CWU. An advising hold will be placed on students who do not meet these requirements.

## **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.

2. Students may choose to complete a minimum of five (5) courses within one (1) Pathway and receive a notation in their transcripts regarding having achieved a focus in that pathway.

#### *Rules for Course Management*

1. Courses in a Pathway must provide multiple opportunities for students to draw connections (engage in integrated learning) 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.
4. Departments and interdisciplinary-programs may offer as many as 3 courses per Pathway (i.e., in 3 Knowledge Areas).

#### General Pathway Management

1. Online offerings must be provided such that online students are able to earn a focus (five courses) within at least one Pathway.

### **Knowledge Areas**

#### Rules for Students

1. Students must take one course in each of the eight Knowledge Areas.
2. Students may take courses from a single department or interdisciplinary program in no more than two Knowledge Areas.
3. All students except those who transfer to CWU with a DTA must complete Academic Writing II by the end of the quarter in which they complete 90 credits.

#### 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.

*Recommended General Education Curriculum Outcomes*

1. It is recommended that each General Education course 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.

**Culminating Experience Courses**

1. Students may take capstone courses within majors to satisfy the General Education Culminating Experience requirement, as long as these courses meet the specified outcomes for General Education courses.
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.
4. Culminating Experience non-major courses will be capped at 20 students.