

General Education in New Mexico

General Education: Building a Foundation for Learning

General Education in New Mexico centers on the acquisition of five skills that are essential and foundational to a college education. These skills are: communication; quantitative reasoning; critical thinking; personal and social responsibility; and information literacy. Additionally, these essential skills are learned through courses in a breadth of content areas that include communication, the sciences, mathematics, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and creative and fine arts.

The goal of New Mexico's General Education curriculum is, in combination with other courses that lead to a baccalaureate degree, to produce a mind that can learn throughout a lifetime, appreciate the natural world and technological innovations, think through issues that confront democracies, and provide leadership in the community and the workplace. In every field of study, New Mexico graduates should acquire the essential skills to think critically, communicate effectively, evaluate quantitative data, see connections among different areas of knowledge, solve complex problems, appreciate and understand diversity, and ethically reason.

The General Education Core Curriculum is divided into foundational courses and electives. Foundational courses introduce essential skills at a college level, and taking these courses facilitate development of that skill throughout the rest of the curriculum. Elective courses provide the opportunity for skills learned in one area to be reinforced in another area.

All general education courses will transfer among higher education institutions in the state of New Mexico, in accordance with state law. The New Mexico Higher Education Department maintains the complete list of approved courses (<http://www.hed.state.nm.us/institutions/general-ed-core-course-transfer-curriculum.aspx>).

General Education Course Requirements: See also worksheet

Foundational Courses: Six general educational courses are foundational. These courses introduce essential skills at a college level, and taking these courses facilitate development of that skill throughout the rest of the curriculum. Foundational courses must satisfy the following distribution:

- Each essential skill must be represented by a foundational course except Communication, which must be covered in two foundational courses.
- The course in Quantitative reasoning must come from the Mathematics (includes Statistics) Content Area
- One foundational course must be from the Science Content Area
- No more than one course can come from the content areas of Science, Mathematics, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences or Creative and Fine Arts.

Elective Courses

Four elective courses provide the opportunity for skills learned in one area to be reinforced in another area. These courses focus on two skills and meet the following requirements:

- Each of the five essential skills is represented at least once among the four courses a student takes.
- Each of the four courses must come from a different content area. These content areas include those for the foundational courses; additional content areas, such as interdisciplinary, engineering, education, etc., can be added at the discretion of each institution of higher education in New Mexico.

General Education Planning Worksheet

This checklist is intended to help you plan and track courses needed to fulfill your general education requirement.

Foundational Courses

To fulfill the foundational courses requirement, you must have:

- One course from each essential skill and two from Communication
- One course in a Quantitative Essential Skill from Mathematics (includes Statistics) Content Area
- One course with a Laboratory in the Science Content Area
- No more than one course from Science, Mathematics, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences or Creative and Fine Arts.

Instructions: List each Foundational General Education Course in the column labeled “Course”. According to their classification in the Undergraduate Catalog, put a check under the Essential Skill for that course and a check under the Content Area for that course.

| Course | Essential Skill | | | | | Content Area | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | Communication | Quantitative Reasoning | Critical Thinking | Personal & Social Responsibility | Information Literacy | Communications | Science | Mathematics | Humanities | Social & Behavioral Sci. | Creative & Fine Arts |
| Credits required | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 0-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 | 0-3 |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Elective Courses

List each General Education Elective in the column labeled “Course”. According to their classification in the Undergraduate Catalog, list the Content Area and put a check under the Essential Skills (each course will have two) for that course.

- Each Essential Skill must be covered by at least one course
- Each of the four courses must come from a different content area.

| Course | Content Area | Essential Skill | | | | |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | Communication | Quantitative Reasoning | Critical Thinking | Personal & Social Responsibility | Information Literacy |
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |