

## **Draft GE Goals and Rationale**

The following is a synthesis of what ATU faculty want all students to have learned when they graduate. It takes into account ATU faculty input, the ATU mission statement, state Department of Education and Secondary Education requirements, Higher Learning Commission requirements, and best practices for General Education outlined by the Association for General and Liberal Studies. The achievement of these goals can be assessed through mapping in existing courses and through General Education (GE) course selection procedures.

### Overview of Requirements

65 GE total units are required for all students. 35 units are required to fulfill the state minimum core and 30 units are required by ATU. Individual courses may fulfill both state core and ATU requirements. Co-curricular activities may also fulfill ATU requirements. All course and co-curricular activity credit must be authorized by the General Education Committee.

Courses fulfilling state required general education units should specifically address and assess state minimum core criteria. These courses may also fulfill ATU general education requirements. For example, ECON 2003 may be designated to fulfill 3 units of Social Science required by the state core curriculum. At the same time, it may also fulfill 3 units of Financial Resources required by ATU. All ATU courses, including major courses, as well as co-curricular activities are eligible to fulfill GE units not specifically bound by state core curriculum requirements.

### Goals

- Communication

Communication, both written and oral is foundational to human understanding and progress. Careful and clear expression will benefit students in interpersonal, civic, and professional settings.

- English (6 units state) – must have central focus in written composition in English and meet state minimum core requirements for General Education English.
  - Eg.
    - Composition 1
    - Composition 2
  - Oral (0-3 units state) – must have central focus in spoken communication and multiple opportunities to practice speaking before a peer or professional audience and meet state minimum core requirements for General Education Speech.
    - Eg.
      - Speech

- Foreign Language
  - Debate
  - Drama
- Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning
 

A fundamental understanding of the scientific method, the language of science, mathematics, and technology is essential to human civilization. A core understanding of science, math, and technology is necessary for students entering every profession or field of inquiry.

  - Mathematics (3 units) – focus in comprehensive mathematics and meet state minimum core requirements for General Education Mathematics.
    - Eg.
      - College Math
      - College Algebra
      - Statistics
  - Scientific Method/Research (8 units) – focus on scientific inquiry and methods and include laboratory work and meet state minimum core requirements for General Education Lab Science.
    - Eg.
      - Biology
      - Physical Science
  - Technology (3 units) – focus on technology and its impact on human interaction.
    - Eg.
      - Intro to Computer Science
- Social and Cultural Contexts
 

A general understanding of the individual’s place in her/his culture, community and world is essential to human peace, prosperity and progress. Student empathy and knowledge of social, political, cultural, and economic contexts is necessary in all professional, civic, and interpersonal settings.

  - US History or Government (3 units) – focus on history and government development in the United States and meet state minimum core requirements for General Education US History.
    - Eg.
      - US 1

- US 2
  - American Government
- Social Science (9-12 units) – focus on scientific inquiry into human behavior and social interactions and meet state minimum core requirements for General Education Social Science.
  - Eg.
    - Sociology
    - Psychology
    - Economics
    - History
    - Political Science
    - Geography
- Fine Arts/Humanities (6-9 units) – focus on study of art, aesthetics and human cultural development and meet state minimum core requirements for General Education Fine Arts/Humanities
  - Eg.
    - Philosophy
    - Literature
    - Art
    - Music
    - Drama
    - Film
- Civic Engagement (3 units) – focus on planning and implementing public participation that addresses local community needs, issues, and problems.
  - Eg.
    - Political Science
    - Interdisciplinary Project Based Course
    - Co-curricular badge
- Diversity and Equity (3 units) – focus on the formation of group and individual identity and the issues of equity and representation in society.

- Eg.
    - Holocaust History
    - Civil Rights History
    - Sociology
    - Anthropology
    - Co-curricular badge
    - Capstone
  - Global Perspectives (3 units) – focus on the individual’s and community’s place in a global context and global issues that transcend national boundaries.
    - Eg.
      - Study Abroad
      - Foreign Language
      - International Relations
      - Co-curricular badge

- Life Skills

A basic understanding of resources, health, and leadership are essential to the human pursuit of individual and social progress.

- Critical/Creative Thinking (6 units) focus on conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information.
  - Eg.
    - Creative Writing
    - History
    - Science
    - Drama
    - Music
  - Ethical Perspectives (3 units) focus on moral principles.
    - Eg.
      - Philosophy
      - History

- Political Science
- Leadership (3 units) focus on leadership, teamwork, and group organization.
  - Eg.
    - Intro to Leadership
    - The Presidency
    - Co-curricular badge
    - Capstone
- Financial Resources (3 units) focus on finances, economics, and practical money management.
  - Eg.
    - Economics
    - Financial Literacy
- Health (3 units) focus on mental or physical health.
  - Eg
    - Psychology
    - Physical Education

#### Additional Procedures and Processes

-students can only take up to 9 units in any one prefix to maximize variety of disciplines in Gen Ed offerings.

#### Sample Gen Ed Degree Requirements

##### *Eg. Mechanical Engineering*

*-Tight curricula like Engineering will need to maximize GE fulfillment with courses that fulfill multiple units. This can be achieved within the existing course structure.*

*-For example, without changing or adding any hours to the Mechanical Engineering degree, majors could take:*

*Composition I for 3 units of English*

*Composition II for 3 units of English*

*Calculus for 3 units of Math*

*Chemistry for 4 units of Lab Science*

*Physics for 4 units of Lab Science*

*Psychology for 3 units of Social Science and 3 units of Health and 3 units of Critical Thinking*

*Economics for 3 units of Social Science and 3 units of Financial Resources*

*Sociology for 3 units of Social Science, 3 units of Ethical Perspectives, and 3 units of Equity and Diversity*

*World Literature for 3 units of Fine Arts/Humanities and 3 units of Global Perspectives*

*Film for 3 units of Fine Arts/Humanities and 3 units of Critical Thinking*

*Political Science for 3 units of US History or Government and 3 units of Civic Engagement*

*Intro to Mechanical Engineering for 3 units of Technology and 3 units of major requirement*

*Mechanical Design Project Capstone for 3 units of Leadership and 3 units of major requirement*

*-The department would only have to get Intro to Mechanical Engineering certified by the GE Committee as fulfilling ATU GE requirements for Technology and Mechanical Design Project certified as fulfilling ATU GE requirements for Leadership.*