

ATU Experience General Education Program Goals and Procedures

The General Education Program at ATU reflects what faculty want all ATU students to have learned before they graduate. The program incorporates 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.

Overview of Requirements

65 total General Education (GE) units are required for all students. 35 units are required for fulfillment of the state minimum core and 30 units are required for the ATU experience.

General Education units are not tied to course hours. A three-hour course, for example, may fulfill more than three GE units, and individual courses may fulfill multiple state core and ATU requirements simultaneously. SOC 1003 Introduction to Sociology, for example, is a three-hour class that fulfills 3 GE units of Social Science, 3 GE units of Ethical Perspectives, and 3 GE units of Equity and Diversity. Co-curricular activities may also fulfill ATU requirements.

All course and co-curricular activity credit must be authorized by the General Education Committee and reflected in the course catalog for the year in which it was approved.

Procedures

General Education Course Selection

GE courses already approved by the General Education Committee will automatically be approved to fulfill state minimum core requirements. The General Education Committee and/or an Academic Department may request that currently approved GE courses apply for consideration for additional ATU GE credit. For example, American Government will be automatically approved to fulfill the 3 units of state core US History or Government because it has already been approved by the GE Committee, but the General Education Committee and/or an Academic Department may request that American Government apply to additionally fulfill 3 units of the ATU civic engagement requirement. Courses submitted to fulfill state required general education units should specifically address and assess state minimum core criteria. Courses submitted to fulfill ATU general education requirements should specifically address and assess ATU general education criteria. All ATU courses, including major courses, as well as co-curricular activities are eligible to fulfill ATU GE units (see General Education Course Approval Application).

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 core) – 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 core) – 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 state core) – 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 state core) – 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 ATU experience) – 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 state core) – 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 (6-9 units state core) – 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 state core) – 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 ATU experience) – 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 ATU experience) – 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 ATU experience) – 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 ATU experience) focus on conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information.
 - Eg.
 - Creative Writing

- History
 - Science
 - Drama
 - Music
- **Ethical Perspectives** (3 units ATU experience) focus on moral principles.
 - Eg.
 - Philosophy
 - History
 - Political Science
- **Leadership** (3 units ATU experience) focus on leadership, teamwork, and group organization.
 - Eg.
 - Intro to Leadership
 - The Presidency
 - Co-curricular Badge
 - Capstone
- **Financial Resources** (3 units ATU experience) focus on finances, economics, and practical money management.
 - Eg.
 - Economics
 - Financial Literacy
- **Wellness** (3 units ATU experience) focus on physical wellness, interpersonal and social wellness, emotional wellness, environmental or planetary wellness, spiritual wellness, and intellectual wellness.
 - Eg.
 - Health and Physical Education
 - Psychology
 - Wellness Science

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.