

Understanding General Education Requirements



One of the benefits of being in the PSEO program is the opportunity to work ahead towards general education requirements. General education is an important part of a student's overall education because it integrates a broad range of skills and knowledge essential for college educated adults.

Watch this [video](#) or review the information in this guide to learn more.

Why General Education?

Video Time: 0:25 – 0:57

- General education integrates a **broad foundation of knowledge and skills** with the study of contemporary concerns. The goals and competencies within the curriculum are reflective of those capabilities essential for all college-educated adults facing the twenty-first century, including:
 - 1. Skills needed for **effective understanding and communication** can be found through reading, listening, critical and integrative thinking, writing, speaking, and technological literacy.
 - 2. Exploration of various ways of knowing through **study of the content, methods of inquiry** and **creative modes of a broad spectrum of disciplines**.
 - 3. Our common membership in the human community, coupled with **awareness that we live in a diverse world**.
 - 4. The interrelatedness of human society and the natural environment and the **ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life** and development of responsibility for lifelong learning.

General Education Guidelines

Video Time: 0:59 – 1:53

1. A total of **44 credits must be completed** to satisfy the general education program at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
2. There are **11 required goal areas** that students must complete, the goal areas include: communication, critical thinking, natural science, mathematics/logical reasoning, history and social/behaviorial sciences, humanities and the arts, human diversity, global perspectives, ethical and civic responsibility, people and the environment, and performance and participation.
3. **A single course may be placed in more than goal area.** Each credit, however, may only be counted once in meeting the 44 credits.



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4. The Critical Thinking Goal Area 2 may be satisfied by taking a course or completing all of the other required goal areas.
5. For Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical, Civil, Computer, Integrated or Mechanical Engineering, and the Nursing degree, general education requirements differ.
See the program requirements for a detailed explanation of general education coursework for these degree programs.



Goal Area 1: Communication

Goal: To develop writers and speakers who use the English language effectively and who read, write, speak, and listen critically. At a base, all students should complete introductory communication requirements early in their college studies. Writing competency is an ongoing process to be reinforced through writing intensive courses and writing across the curriculum. Speaking and listening skills need reinforcement. There are multiple opportunities for interpersonal communication, public speaking and discussion.

PART A: English Composition

Requires one course, 3 credits or more, with a grade of at least "P" or "C" (2.0). A grade of C- does not satisfy the goal area.

Common PSEO class to take:

- ENG 101: Foundations of Writing & Rhetoric (4)

PART B: Speech & Oral Reasoning

Requires one course, 3 credits or more.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- CMST 100: Fundamentals of Communication (3)
- CMST 102: Public Speaking (3)

KEY FOR UPCOMING GOAL AREAS/SECTIONS :

W = Writing Intensive Course

P = Purple Diversity Requirement

G = Gold Diversity Requirement

L = Lab Course

() = Credits for the course

Goal Area 2: Critical Thinking

Goal: To develop critical thinking, communication, and problem solving skills. Courses in this goal area must focus on skill development and throughout the course will provide opportunities to exercise skills although the exercise of skills requires a subject matter, the emphasis in this goal area will be on skill development. The skills will not be ones that are specific to the practice of a particular discipline or area of inquiry but rather will be skills that are common to different disciplines and different areas of inquiry.

Requires completion of the rest of general education or one course.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- CHEM 201: General Chemistry (5)
- STAT 154: Elementary Statistics* (4)
- CMST 101W: Interpersonal Communication (3), W
- CSP 110: Decision Making for Career and Life (3)
- GWS 230: Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)



Goal Area 3: Natural Science

Goal: To improve students' understanding of natural science principles and of the methods of scientific inquiry, i.e., the ways in which scientists investigate natural science phenomena. Students should be encouraged to study both the biological and physical sciences.

Requires two courses from different disciplines, 6 credits or more. At least one course must be a laboratory course.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- BIOL 100: Our Natural World (L) (4)
- GEOL 100: Our Geologic Environment (3-4)
- CHEM 100: Chemistry in Society (4) (L)
- CHEM 104: Introduction to Chemistry (3)
- FCS 140: Intro to Nutrition (3)
- GEOG 101: Introductory Physical Geography (4)
- PHYS 101: Introductory Physics (3)



Goal Area 4: Math/Logical Reasoning

Goal: To increase students' knowledge about mathematical and logical modes of thinking. This will enable students to appreciate the breadth of applications of mathematics, evaluate arguments, and detect fallacious reasoning. Students will learn to apply mathematics, logic, and/or statistics to help them make decisions in their lives and careers.

Requires one course, 3 credits or more, with a grade of at least "P" or "C", i.e. 2.0. A grade of "C-" does not satisfy this goal area.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- MATH 112: College Algebra* (4)
- MATH 113: Trigonometry* (3)
- MATH 115: Precalculus* (4)
- MATH 121: Calculus I* (4)
- MATH 130: Finite Math & Intro to Calculus* (4)

*requires prerequisites, check e-services



Goal Area 5: History and Social and Behavioral Sciences

Goal: To increase students' knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events and ideas and to challenge students to examine the implications of this knowledge and its interconnection with action and living an informed life.

Requires two courses from different disciplines, 6 credits or more.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychological Science (4)
- HIST 190: United States to 1877 (4), P
- HIST 191: United States to 1877 (4), P
- ECON 201: Principles of Macroeconomics (3)
- SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology (3), P
- POL 111: United States Government (4)
- ANTH 101: Intro to Anthropology (4), P
- FCS 100: Personal & Family Living (3)
- GEOG 103: Introductory Cultural Geography (3), P
- HLTH 240: Drug Education (3)
- ETHN 100: American Racial Minorities (3), P



Goal Area 6: Humanities and the Arts

Goal: To expand students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behavior, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as literature, philosophy, and the fine arts, students will engage in critical analysis, form aesthetic judgments, and develop an appreciation of the arts and humanities as fundamental to the health and survival of any society. Students should have experiences in both the arts and humanities.

Requires two courses from different disciplines, 6 credits or more.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- ENG 110: Introduction to Literature (4)
- ART 100: Elements & Principles of Art (3)
- ART 261: Art History Survey II (3)
- THEA 101: Acting for Everyone (3)
- FILM 114: Introduction to Film (4)
- MASS 260: Principles of Visual Mass Communication (4)
- MUSC 101: Introduction to Music (3)
- MUSC 102: Pop Music USA (3)



Goal Area 7: Human Diversity

Goal: To increase students' understanding of individual and group differences, emphasizing the dynamics of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, class, and/ or disabilities in the history and culture of diverse groups in the United States; the contributions of pluralism to United States society and culture; and issues-- economic, political, social, cultural, artistic, humanistic, and education traditions--that surround such diversity. Students should be able to evaluate the United States' historical and contemporary responses to group differences.

Requires one course, 3 credits or more.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- HIST 191W: United States to 1877 (4), P
- HIST 190: United States of 1877 (4)
- MUSC 103 Pop Music (3)
- SOC150: Social Problems (3), P
- CMST 203: Intercultural Communication (4), P
- ELE 222W: Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (3), G, W
- ETHN 100: American Racial Minorities (3), P
- GWS 110: Introduction to Gender (4), P
- HIST 190: United States to 1877 (4), P



Goal Area 8: Global Perspectives

Goal: To increase students' understanding of the growing interdependence of nations, traditions and peoples and develop their ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic, and political experiences.

Requires one course, 3 credits or more.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- GEOG 100: Elements of Geography (3), P
- SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology (3), P
- CMST 203: Intercultural Communication (4)
- ANTH 101: Intro to Anthropology (4), P
- SPAN 101: Elementary Spanish I (4)
- ANTH 230: People and Cultures of the World (4), P
- ART 160: Introduction to Visual Culture (3), P
- BIO 100: Our Natural World (4)
- GER 101: Elementary German I (4)
- HIST 170: Ancient World Civilization to 1500 (4)
- SPAN 101: Elementary Spanish I (4)



Goal Area 9: Ethical and Civic Responsibility

Goal: To develop students' capacity to identify, discuss and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life and to understand the ways in which they can exercise responsible and productive citizenship. While there are diverse views of social justice or the common good in a pluralistic society, students should learn that responsible citizenship requires them to develop skills to understand their own and others positions, be part of the free exchange of ideas, and function as public minded citizens

Requires one course, 3 credits or more.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- POL 111: United States Government (4)
- PHIL 120W: Introduction to Ethics (3)
- MASS 110: Intro to Mass Communication (4), P
- CIS 100: Introduction to Computing and Applications (4)
- GWS 220: Sex and Gender Worldwide (4), P
- MASS 280: Social Media and Society (4)



Goal Area 10: People and the Environment

Goal: To increase students' understanding of today's complex environmental challenges. Students will examine the interrelatedness of human society and the natural environment. Knowledge of both bio-physical principles and psychosocial cultural systems is the foundation for integrative and critical thinking about environmental issues.

Requires one course, 3 credits or more.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- HLTH 101: Health and the Environment (3)
- GEOG 100: Elements of Geography (3), P
- GEOG 101: Introductory Physical Geography (4)
- ANTH 102: Ancient Peoples (4)
- ENVR 101: Perspectives in Environmental Science (4)
- GEOL 100: Our Geologic Environment (3)



Goal Area 11: Performance and Participation

Goal: To prepare students for responsible and effective participation in groups and communities.

Requires 2-3 credits.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- HP 117: Aerobic Conditioning (1)
- ENG 242W: Introduction to Creative Writing (4)
- ELE 222W: Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (3)
- CDIS 205: Beginning American Sign Language – Level I (3)
- HP 113: Introduction to Bowling (1)
- HP 114: Introduction to Billiards (2)
- HP 180: Introduction to Handball (1)
- HP 291: Concepts of Fitness (2)
- NURS 101W: Courage, Caring, and Team Building (3), W



Writing Intensive Requirement

Goal: Students will be able to effectively engage in the writing process, generate ideas, draft, revise, format, and edit their work in alignment with a college-educated adult in the 21st century.

Students pursuing a bachelor's degree must take two (2) courses from two different disciplines for a minimum of six (6) credits that are designated writing intensive courses.

Common PSEO classes to take:

- CMST 101W: Interpersonal Communication (3) GE 2
- HIST 191W: United States to 1877 (4), P, GE 5 & 7
- ELE 222W: Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (3), G, GE 7 & 11
- PHIL 120W: Introduction to Ethics (3), GE 6 & 9
- ENG 242W: Introduction to Creative Writing (4), GE 11
- NURS 101W: Courage, Caring, and Team Building (3), GE 11



Diverse Cultures Requirement

Diversity at Minnesota State Mankato is a commitment to create an understanding and appreciation of diverse peoples and diverse perspectives; a commitment to create an academic, cultural, and workplace environment and community that develops mutual respect for all and celebrates our differences.

In keeping with the spirit of this commitment, all Minnesota State Mankato undergraduate students must satisfy the DCGR for graduation. For purposes of further clarifying the DCGR, diversity is defined in comprehensive terms as the many faceted ways in which human beings differ from one another. Often overlapping, these differences can include: age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, mental/ physical ability, race/ethnicity.

To fulfill this requirement, students must:

- Take at least one **GOLD** course and one **PURPLE** course OR two **PURPLE** courses.
- Each course must be at least three (3) credits.
- Students must take courses from two different disciplines to satisfy the diverse cultures requirement.

A course is denoted on e-services as being PURPLE or GOLD under the notes section on e-services.

Diverse Cultures Requirement

Common PSEO classes to take:

- HIST 190: United States to 1877 (4), P, GE 5 & 7
- HIST 191: United States to 1877 (4), P, GE 5 & 7
- SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology (3), P, GE 5 & 8
- ANTH 101: Intro to Anthropology (4), P, GE 5 & 8
- GEOG 103: Introductory Cultural Geography (3), P, GE 5 & 8
- ETHN 100: American Racial Minorities (3), P, GE 5 & 7
- SOC150: Social Problems (3), P, GE 5 & 7
- CMST 203: Intercultural Communication (4), P, GE 7 & 8
- ELE 222W: Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (3), G, W, GE 7 & 11
- GWS 110: Introduction to Gender (4), P, GE 5 & 7
- GEOG 100: Elements of Geography (3), P, GE & 10
- CMST 203: Intercultural Communication (4), GE 7 & 8
- SPAN 101: Elementary Spanish I (4), GE 8
- ANTH 230: People and Cultures of the World (4), P, GE 8
- ART 160: Introduction to Visual Culture (3), P, GE 6 & 8



How Can Students Find General Education Classes on E-Services?

Video Time: 3:49 – 4:44

Under “search for a course” students should click “**expand collapse for advanced search.**” Under “**general/liberal education**” students can select the goal area they want to see available classes for. This will give a list of all available classes within that goal area for the upcoming semester.

The screenshot shows an advanced search interface with the following elements:

- A red circle highlights the link "Expand/Collapse for Advanced Search" with a downward arrow icon.
- A row of checkboxes for days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- A "Times between" section with two dropdown menus.
- An "MN Transfer Curriculum Goal" dropdown menu.
- A red circle highlights the "General/Liberal Ed" dropdown menu, which is currently set to "Goal 3-Natural Science".
- A "Credit Type" dropdown menu set to "All".
- A "# of Credits/Hours" input field.
- An "Instructor" text input field.
- A "Keyword Search" text input field.
- A "Begins after Date" input field with a "(mm/dd/yyyy)" label.
- A "Location" dropdown menu.
- An "Honors Flag" dropdown menu set to "All Courses".