



General Education - Philosophy of General Education

The purpose of the general education core is to ensure that college students have the broad knowledge and skills to become life-long learners in a global community that will continue to change.

General education provides critical thinking skills for people to continue to seek truths, to discover answers to questions, and to solve problems. Specifically, educated people are literate in and practice the various methods of communication. They recognize their place in the history, culture, diverse heritages of Tennessee, the United States and the world. They appreciate the web of commonality of all humans in a multicultural world and are prepared for the responsibilities of an engaged citizenship. They recognize the ethical demands of our common lives. They demonstrate the skills and knowledge of the social and behavioral sciences to analyze their contemporary world. They are familiar with the history and aesthetics of the fine arts. They understand the scientific and mathematical views of the world, and they put those disciplines into practice.

Finally, the general education core provides for its citizens the means to make a better living. Above all, perhaps, it enables its citizens to make a better life.

Common Catalog Statement Regarding General Education

Effective Fall Semester 2004, each institution in the State University and Community College System of Tennessee (The Tennessee Board of Regents System) will share a common lower-division general education core curriculum of forty-one (41) semester hours for baccalaureate degrees and the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees. Lower-division means freshman and sophomore courses. The courses comprising the general education curriculum are contained within the following subject categories:

Baccalaureate Degrees and Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Degrees*

Communication	9 hours**
Humanities and/or Fine Arts (At least one course must be in literature.)	9 hours
Social/Behavioral Sciences	6 hours
History	6 hours***
Natural Sciences	8 hours
Mathematics	3 hours
Total 41 hours	

*Foreign language courses are an additional requirement for the Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degrees. Six hours of foreign language are required for the A.A. degree and twelve hours are required for the B.A.

**Six hours of English Composition and three hours in English oral presentational communication are required.

***Students who plan to transfer to Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) universities should take six hours of United States History (Tennessee History may substitute for three of the hours). Students who plan to transfer to University of Tennessee System universities, out-of-state, or private universities should check requirements and take the appropriate courses.

Although the courses designated by TBR institutions to fulfill the requirements of the general education subject categories vary, transfer of the courses is assured through the following means:

- Upon completion of an A.A or A.S. degree, the requirements of the lower-division general education core will be complete and accepted by a TBR university in the transfer process.

- If an A.A. or A.S. is not obtained, transfer of general education courses will be based upon fulfillment of complete subject categories. (Example: If all eight hours in the category of Natural Sciences are complete, then this "block" of the general education core is complete.) When a subject category is incomplete, course-by-course evaluation will be conducted. The provision of block fulfillment pertains also to students who transfer among TBR universities.
- Institutional/departmental requirements of the grade of "C" will be honored. Even if credit is granted for a course, any specific requirements for the grade of "C" by the receiving institution will be enforced.
- In certain majors, specific courses must be taken also in general education. It is important that students and advisors be aware of any major requirements that must be fulfilled under lower-division general education.

Associate of Applied Science (A. A. S.) Degrees

English Composition	13 hours
Humanities and/or Fine Arts	3 hours*
Social/Behavioral Sciences	3 hours*
Natural Science/Mathematics	3 to 4 hours*
One additional course from the Categories of Communication, Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, or Natural Science/Mathematics	3 to 4 hours*
Total	15 to 17 hours

* Specific courses satisfying these requirements must be the same courses that satisfy the general education requirement for the Associate (A.A./A.S.) and Baccalaureate degrees.

Courses designated to fulfill general education by Southwest are published on "Courses That Fulfill Requirements In The Six Subject Categories" of this website. A complete listing of the courses fulfilling general education requirements for all system institutions is available on the TBR web site (www.tbr.state.tn.us) under Transfer and Articulation Information.

Subject Categories and Required Hours

The following description identifies the number of hours needed in each of the six general education subject categories for the A.A.S., A.A., and A.S. degrees. Before making any decisions about which general education courses to take, be sure to **see your program requirements first**. Courses satisfying general education requirements are listed on the pages that follow this description.

- For the **A.A.S. Degree**, students should see their program requirements before making decisions about general education courses. To satisfy the 15-hour minimum, all students take:
 - English Composition I, ENGL 1010, from the category of Communication (3 hours);
 - one course from the category of Humanities and/or Fine Arts (3 hours);
 - one course from the category of Social/Behavioral Sciences (3 hours);
 - one course from either Natural Sciences or Mathematics (3-4 hours);
 - one additional course from Communication, Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences, or Mathematics (3-4 hours).

2. For **A.A.**¹ and **A.S. degrees**, students should see their program requirements before making decisions about general education courses. To satisfy the 41-hour minimum, all students take:
- three courses (9 hours) in Communication: English Composition I, English Composition II, and one SPCH course, either Public Speaking (SPCH 1110) or Oral Communication (SPCH 2010);
 - three courses (9 hours) in Humanities and/or Fine Arts, of which one course must be in literature, designated with an ENGL 2000 or higher course identification;
 - two courses (6 hours) in Social/Behavioral Sciences;
 - two courses (6 hours) in History²;
 - two courses (8 hours) in Natural Sciences;
 - one course (3 hours) in Mathematics.

¹ Foreign Language courses are an additional 6-hour requirement for the A.A. Degree.

² Students who plan to transfer to TBR universities should take six hours of United States History. Students who plan to transfer to University of Tennessee System universities or to out-of-state or private universities should check requirements and take the appropriate courses.

The General Education Program: Courses that Fulfill Requirements in the Six Subject Categories

The following courses fulfill general education requirements in six subject categories at Southwest. They also transfer to fulfill system-wide requirements at other TBR colleges and universities.

Communication

ENGL 1010	English Composition I	3
ENGL 1020	English Composition II	3
SPCH 1110	Public Speaking	3
SPCH 2010	Oral Communication	3

Humanities and/or Fine Arts*

ENGL 2110	American Literature I	3
ENGL 2120	American Literature II	3
ENGL 2130	Contemporary American Literature	3
ENGL 2210	British Literature I	3
ENGL 2220	British Literature II	3
ENGL 2310	World Literature I	3
ENGL 2320	World Literature II	3
ENGL 2650	African American Literature	3
ENGL 2340	World Fiction	3
ART 1030	Art Appreciation	3
MUS 1030	Music Appreciation	3
THEA 1030	Theater Appreciation	3
ENGL 1065	Introduction to Film	3
PHIL 1030	Introduction to Philosophy	3
ETHC 2030	Ethics	3
PHIL 2030	Values in the Modern World	3

*For the A.A. and A.S. degrees, one course in Humanities and/or Fine Arts must be in literature, designated with an ENGL 2000 or higher course identification.

Group 3: Social/Behavioral Sciences

ANTH 2010	Cultural Anthropology	3
ECON 2010	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
ECON 2020	Principles of Microeconomics	3
GEOG 1030	World Geographic Regions	3
HPER 1570	Wellness Perspectives	3
POLI 2010	American National Government	3
SOCI 1010	Introduction to Sociology	3
SOCI 1020	Social Problems	3
SOCI 2040	The Family in Global Perspective	3
PSYC 1010	General Psychology I	3

PSYC 1020	General Psychology II	3
HIST 2030	African-American History	3

History*

HIST 1110	Survey of World Civilizations I	3
HIST 1120	Survey of World Civilizations II	3
HIST 2010	Survey of the United States to 1877	3
HIST 2020	Survey of the United States since 1877	3

*Students who plan to transfer to TBR universities should take six hours of United States History. Students who plan to transfer to University of Tennessee System universities or to out-of-state or private universities should check requirements and take the appropriate courses.

Natural Sciences*

BIOL 1010	Introduction to Biology I	4
BIOL 1020	Introduction to Biology II	4
BIOL 1110	General Biology I	4
BIOL 1120	General Biology II	4
CHEM 1010	Introduction to Chemistry I	4
CHEM 1020	Introduction to Chemistry II	4
CHEM 1110	General Chemistry I	4
CHEM 1120	General Chemistry II	4
GEOG 1010	Physical Geography I	4
GEOG 1020	Physical Geography II	4
PHYS 1010	Introduction to Physics	4
PHYS 1030	Introduction to Astronomy (Lecture)	3
PHYS 1031	Introduction to Astronomy (Laboratory)	1
PHYS 2010	General Physics I	4
PHYS 2020	General Physics II	4
PHYS 2110	Physics for Science and Engineering I	4
PHYS 2120	Physics for Science and Engineering II	4
PSCI 1010	Physical Science I	4
PSCI 1020	Physical Science II	4

*Anatomy and Physiology I and II can serve as substitutes for the natural science requirement for nursing and allied health students.

Mathematics

MATH 1410	Foundation of Mathematics I*	3
MATH 1530	Statistics	3
MATH 1630	Finite Mathematics	3
MATH 1830	Elementary Calculus	4
MATH 1910	Calculus and Analytic Geometry I	4

*Foundations of Mathematics I fulfills the general education requirement only for students in programs that also require Foundations of Mathematics II.