

## **Recommendation to the Board of Governors**

### **Revision of the General Education Program**

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve revisions to the General Education program, as presented, effective Fall 2005. Further, that WSUCA 2.43.04, "University-Wide Proficiency Requirements in English and Mathematics" be rescinded.

#### **Background**

Modifications to Wayne State University's General Education program have been under consideration for several years. Recently, the Academic Senate recommended a number of changes that are necessary to keep pace with our changing student body, the demands of technology, and trends in higher education. I concur with the Senate's recommendations.

The following seven modifications are recommended:

##### Mathematics and Computer Literacy

1. Enhance the mathematics literacy requirement;
2. Enhance the computer literacy requirement.

##### Add exposure areas

3. Require students to have an exposure in three areas: cultural diversity; ethical issues in society; and science, technology and society.

##### Group Requirements

4. Allow up to two courses in any subject area to count toward fulfilling either group requirements or exposure areas (the current plan only allows one);
5. Allow studio and applied courses that can demonstrate to the General Education Oversight Committee that they fulfill the criteria for the Visual and Performing Arts component of the Humanities group requirement;
6. Discontinue UGE 1000 as a group requirement.

##### Change in Authority

7. Replace the General Education Implementation Committee with the General Education Oversight Committee.

### **CURRENT CURRICULUM & RECOMMENDED CHANGES**

#### **The Current Mathematics Requirement:**

2.43.03.070 *Mathematics Proficiency*

*Proficiency in mathematics must be demonstrated by all students prior to completion of the first 30 credit hours taken at Wayne State University. Mathematics proficiency shall be determined by an appropriate mathematics score on national standardized tests, e.g.,*

*CEEB, CLEP; a passing score on designated placement or proficiency tests; or, by satisfactory completion of designated mathematics courses, or their course equivalents.*

**The proposed changes:**

The new requirements for Mathematics mandate a higher level of basic math skills beyond the remedial courses level, MAT 0991 and MAT 0993.

- A. Courses approved as satisfying the goals of this competency shall either be (i) a “baseline” MAT course at the 1000-level; or (ii) any MAT course at a higher level; or (iii) a course approved by the Oversight Committee as equivalent to the course selected as the baseline for competency. The Mathematics Competency/Placement Examination shall be revised to reflect the baseline course, and the revised examination shall be submitted to the General Education Oversight Committee for approval.
- B. Mathematical competency can be demonstrated by achieving appropriate scores on national standardized tests; or by passing the Mathematics Competency/Placement Examination; or by passing a course approved as satisfying the goals of this competency including approved equivalent courses from other institutions.

**The Current Computer Competency:**

*2.43.03.090 Computer Literacy*

*All students must demonstrate competency in computer literacy, prior to completion of 90 hours at Wayne State University; or, within the first year, if they enter with junior status. Computer literacy shall be determined by satisfactory completion of appropriate high school courses in computer science; an appropriate score on designated placement tests; passing a prescribed proficiency examination; or, by satisfactory completion of a designated course, or its equivalent.*

**The proposed change:**

There will now be two levels of proficiency required; Level I will remain the same, students will need to meet basic requirements prior to completing 30 credits. The new requirement, Level II, mandates a discipline specific proficiency that will be required prior to graduation. A list of approved courses will be available to students. In cases where a student elects to change her/his major and has met the Level II requirement, that course will satisfy the proficiency requirement in the newly elected major.

Level I - Basic Computer Competency (CL):

Prior to the completion of 30 credits at Wayne State University, the Level I requirement should be achieved through one of the following three (3) options.

1. Passing the Basic Computer Competency Examination;
2. Successfully completing a basic computer competency course as approved by the General Education Oversight Committee;
3. Transferring credit for successful completion of a comparable course taken at another college or university.

## Level II - Computer Proficiency (CP)

Prior to graduation, all students must demonstrate discipline/major/program specific computer literacy by successfully completing the Level II Computer Proficiency requirement. The discipline/major/program specific applications will be addressed in Computer Proficiency intensive courses (*similar to the Writing Intensive Requirement*) specified by the departments or professional schools in which students are seeking degrees. The Computer Proficiency requirement may be a non-credit component of a course within the student's major or a required course in the major, which incorporates computer assignments that facilitate transition to a professional role, including consideration of ethical issues. Student should consult their school or departmental advisers for the approved course(s) in their major.

Colleges/departments/programs, as appropriate, must designate an upper-division course (or courses) to fulfill the Computer Proficiency requirement in their majors. The CP course(s) must be approved by the General Education Oversight Committee.

Courses designated for the Computer Proficiency requirement should provide guidance in the critical evaluation of electronic resources in the major as well as training in the use of discipline/major/program specific hardware, software, and scholarly electronic resources.

### **Addition of Exposure Areas**

In addition to the competency and group requirements, the following three (3) topical areas should be covered:

1. Cultural Diversity
2. Ethical Issues in Society
3. Science, Technology and Society

Courses which provide students with these exposures must demonstrate that a substantial percentage of the content of the course deals with the topic in question. But, to reduce the course burden on students, a wider array of courses should be permitted to satisfy these exposures. Existing General education courses may qualify, but so may many other courses.

Such courses could include upper-division courses in various majors, or courses which students take as electives in pursuing their majors – courses which might not meet the criteria for adoption as General Education courses but which contain content sufficient to fulfill these exposures. With such possibilities open, these exposures need not require any additional courses in a student's normal plan of study.

### **The Current Group Requirements**

#### *2.43.03.110 GROUP REQUIREMENTS*

*Fundamental to any set of General Education requirements at the university level are courses designed to ensure that all students have some exposure to certain branches of knowledge. The group requirements mandate students to take a number of courses in areas outside their fields of special interest to provide the intellectual breadth necessary for completion of the major and for continuing self-education later in life.*

2.43.03.120 All students must fulfill the following group requirements by satisfactory completion of designated courses in each area; or, by an appropriate score on designated placement, national or departmental examinations.

### **The proposed changes:**

Remove the restriction allowing only a single course in any Subject Area to be counted toward fulfilling group requirements and allow *no more than two courses* in any Subject Area to be counted toward fulfilling either group requirements or exposure areas. The existing exemption from this limit is for majors in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program for the Subject Areas IH, ISP IST and ISS will remain in effect.

1. Remove the blanket ban on studio and applied courses as satisfying the Visual and Performing Arts component of the Humanities group requirement to allow those studio and applied courses which can demonstrate to the General Education Oversight Committee that they fulfill the criteria of this requirement.
2. Drop the current UGE 1000 as a group requirement. The University Library and Information Sciences Program is encouraged to revise their proposal for a General Education course on information technology, and to submit the new proposal to the General Education Oversight Committee. If approved by the Oversight Committee the new proposal will go before the Board of Governors for approval.

### **Admissions Requirements**

Admission requirements for the General Education program remain the same.

### **Program Administration**

The General Education Implementation Committee and the University-wide Educational Adjustment Committee (WSUCA 2.43.03.240-270) will be replaced by the General Education Oversight Committee, charged with making recommendations to the President or her/his designee for the implementation and review of the General Education curriculum.

The new Oversight Committee will be representative of the university community as a whole and as follows:

1. One (1) representative each from the colleges of Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Social Work; two (2) representatives each from the colleges of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, nine (9) representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and one (1) member, *ex officio* and without vote, from Library and Information Sciences. The committee shall decide the number of student representatives.
2. The chair of the committee, without vote, shall be the Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education and General Education.

### **Budget and Resource Requirements**

No new expenditures are required or requested.

**Accreditation**

The curriculum will be reviewed by the General Education Oversight Committee on an ongoing basis.

**WSUCA 2.43.04**

WSUCA 2.43.04, “University-Wide Proficiency Requirements in English and Mathematics,” is deleted from the statutes. It was written in 1983, but was superseded by the General Education Statute adopted by the Board in 1986.

**Approvals**

The revisions to the General Education Program curriculum were reviewed extensively by the Academic Senate over the course of the past year and adopted by the Senate in January 2005.

### 2.43.03 GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; REQUIREMENTS

Section	Current w/change in BOLD	Notes on the Changes
2.43.03.010	All undergraduate students must fulfill University-wide General Education requirements in the following areas:	
2.43.03.020	<p>COMPETENCIES REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>Success in college and the ability to function as an educated citizen require not only the ability to master areas of substantive knowledge, but also a series of fundamental skills that underlie and make possible the acquisition of knowledge. Since competencies or skills are preconditions for higher education, what is needed is demonstration of the competency, not a specific course requirement. Therefore, in the competency areas, multiple methods of demonstrating competency shall be available, including satisfactory completion of designated courses, earning an appropriate score on designated examinations, or, in some instances, satisfactory completion of specified high school courses.</p>	
2.43.03.030	<p>Written Communication</p> <p>Basic Composition. All students must demonstrate competence in basic English composition. Basic composition competence shall be determined by satisfactory completion of a designated course, or its course equivalent; earning advanced placement credit for basic composition; or, passing a prescribed placement examination.</p>	
2.43.03.040	<p>Intermediate Course.</p> <p>All students must complete satisfactorily a designated intermediate, or more advanced, course in which the teaching of English composition and rhetoric is a major component.</p>	
2.43.03.050	<p>Proficiency Examination.</p> <p>All students must demonstrate proficiency in composition between the completion of 45 and 75 credit hours by passing the Wayne State University English Proficiency Examination. Students posting an unsatisfactory score on this proficiency examination must satisfactorily pass the prescribed English course (e.g., English <del>108</del> <b>1080</b>).</p>	<p>Changed course number 108 to 1080 to reflect the new course numbering system.</p>
2.43.03.060	<p>College/School/Department Requirements.</p> <p>All students must demonstrate that they have developed the ability to communicate effectively with specialized or professional audiences by completing successfully the writing requirements, or courses which incorporate major writing assignments, specified by the departments</p>	

Section	Current w/change in BOLD	Notes on the Changes
	or professional schools in which they are seeking a degree.	
2.43.03.070	<p>Mathematics Proficiency</p> <p>Proficiency in mathematics must be demonstrated by all students prior to completion of the first 30 credit hours taken at Wayne State University. Mathematics proficiency shall be determined by <b>courses approved as satisfying the goals of this competency shall either be (i) a “baseline” MAT course at the 1000-level; or (ii) any MAT course at a higher level; or (iii) a course approved by the General Education Oversight Committee as equivalent to the course selected as the baseline for competency. The Mathematics Competency/Placement Examination shall be revised to reflect the baseline course, and the revised examination shall be approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee. Other acceptable measures are:</b> an appropriate mathematics score on national standardized tests, e.g., CEEB, CLEP; a passing score on designated placement or proficiency tests; or, by satisfactory completion of designated mathematics courses, or their course equivalents.</p>	<p><u>Mathematics Literacy</u></p> <p>1. Enhance the mathematics literacy requirement;</p>
2.43.03.080	<p>Oral Communication</p> <p>All students must demonstrate competency in the fundamentals of oral communication. Oral communication competency shall be determined by satisfactory completion of a designated basic speech course, or by demonstrating equivalency.</p>	
2.43.03.090	<p>Computer Literacy</p> <p><del>All students must demonstrate competency in computer literacy, prior to completion of 90 hours at Wayne State University; or, within the first year, if they enter with junior status. Computer literacy shall be determined by satisfactory completion of appropriate high school courses in computer science;</del></p> <p><b>Level I - Basic Computer Competency (CL): Prior to the completion of 30 credits at Wayne State University, the Level I requirement should be achieved through one of the following three (3) options.</b></p> <p><del>an appropriate score on designated placement tests;</del></p> <p><b>1. Passing the Basic Computer Competency Examination;</b></p>	<p><u>Computer Literacy</u></p> <p>2. Enhance the computer literacy requirement.</p>

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	<p>passing a prescribed proficiency examination; or, by satisfactory completion of a designated course, or its equivalent. 2. <b>Successfully completing a basic computer competency course as approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee;</b></p> <p>3. <b>Transferring credit for successful completion of a comparable course taken at another college or university.</b></p> <p><b>Level II (CP)</b>  <b>Prior to graduation, all students must demonstrate discipline/major/program specific computer literacy</b>  <b>The CP requirement may be a non-credit component of a course within the student's major or a required course in the major, which incorporates computer assignments that facilitate transition to a professional role, including consideration of ethical issues. Student should consult their school or departmental advisers for the approved course(s) in their major.</b></p> <p><b>Colleges/departments/programs, as appropriate, must designate an upper-division course (or courses) to fulfill the CP requirement in their majors. The course should provide guidance in the critical evaluation of electronic resources in the major as well as training in the use of discipline/major/program specific hardware, software, and scholarly electronic resources. The CP course(s) must be approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.</b></p>	
2.43.03.100	<p>Critical or Analytic Thinking</p> <p>Competency in critical thinking must be demonstrated by all students prior to completion of the first 75 credits earned toward a bachelor degree. Competency shall be determined by passing a prescribed test on critical thinking, or by satisfactory completion of a designated course or its equivalent</p>	
2.43.03.110	GROUP REQUIREMENTS	

Section	Current w/change in BOLD	Notes on the Changes
	Fundamental to any set of General Education requirements at the university level are courses designed to ensure that all students have some exposure to certain branches of knowledge. The group requirements mandate students to take a number of courses in areas outside their fields of special interest to provide the intellectual breadth necessary for completion of the major and for continuing self-education later in life.	
2.43.03.120	All students must fulfill the following group requirements by satisfactory completion of designated courses in each area; or, by an appropriate score on designated placement, national or departmental examinations.	
2.43.03.130	<p>Natural Sciences</p> <p>All students are required to complete successfully at least two courses (a minimum of 3 credits each) in the natural sciences (one in the physical sciences and one in the life sciences). To permit the individual student to experience the role of systematic observation in the promulgation of scientific knowledge, a minimum one-credit laboratory or interactive demonstrations or simulations must be associated with at least one of these courses.</p>	
2.43.03.140	<p>Historical Studies</p> <p>All students must complete a course in historical studies (minimum of 3 credit hours).</p>	
2.43.03.150	<p>Social Sciences</p> <p>All students must complete successfully two courses in the social sciences (minimum of 3 credit hours each). One course must be elected from each of the following two groups: (1) American Society and Institutions; and (2) Social Science.</p>	
2.43.03.160	<p>Foreign Culture</p> <p>All students are required to complete at least one course in the study of a foreign culture (minimum of 3 credit hours).</p>	
2.43.03.170	<p>Humanities</p> <p>All students must complete successfully two courses in the humanities (minimum of 3 credit hours each). One course must be elected from each of the following two groups: (1) Visual and Performing Arts; (2) Philosophy and Letters. <b>Studio and applied courses in the Visual and Performing Arts must be approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee as demonstrating that the course(s) fulfills the criteria</b></p>	<p><b>Note: Blanket ban on visual arts is not in current statute.</b></p> <p><u>Group Requirements</u> 5. Allow studio and applied courses that can demonstrate to the General Education Oversight Committee that they fulfill the criteria for the Visual and Performing Arts component of the Humanities group requirement.</p>

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	<b>of Humanities requirement.S</b>	
<b>2.43.03.180 OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b>		
	<p><del>Introduction to the University and its Libraries</del></p> <p><del>All newly matriculated undergraduate students who transfer twelve or fewer credits to Wayne State University will be required, prior to completing 30 credit hours at Wayne State University, but no later than their second term of attendance, either (a) to pass a one-credit course comprising lectures and applied skills modules designed to introduce the history, tradition, character, goals, and structure of modern universities and their research libraries, and especially those of Wayne State University; or (b) to test or place out of the requirement.</del></p> <p><b>The current UGE 1000 will be suspended from the group requirement. The University Library and Information Sciences Program is encouraged to revise their proposal for a General Education course on information technology. The new proposal will approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.</b></p>	<p><u>Group Requirements</u></p> <p>6. Discontinue UGE 1000 as a group requirement.</p>
2.43.03.190	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>The General Education requirements shall become effective for students on the following schedule:</p>	
2.43.03.200	Fall <del>1987</del> <b>2005</b> : For entering freshmen and students who transfer fewer than 12 credit hours.	<b>Changed date</b>
2.43.03.205	Fall <del>1990</del> <b>2006</b> : For transfer students who began college work fall <del>1988</del> <b>2005</b> or thereafter.	<b>Changed date</b>
2.43.03.210	Fall <del>1991</del> <b>2005</b> : For all new undergraduate students.	<b>Changed date</b>
2.43.03.220	During the phase-in period, all transfer students must continue to meet the University requirements in mathematics and English proficiency and the American Government requirement.	
2.43.03.230	The President shall establish the date for implementation. That date shall occur at the earliest time consistent with the creation of the necessary courses and competency tests provided by this statute and with the development of administrative mechanisms necessary to monitor student fulfillment of these requirements.	
<b>2.43.03.24 IMPLEMENTATION</b>		

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	<p><del>University wide Implementation Committee</del></p> <p><del>The President or his/her designee shall establish a University wide Implementation Committee for the purpose of making recommendations to the President or his/her designee on the required General Education component of all undergraduate (pre baccalaureate) curricula offered at Wayne State University. The Committee shall consist of twelve members: nine to be selected from faculty, and two undergraduate students. Student members shall serve one year terms; all other members would serve overlapping three year terms. The President or his/her designee shall serve ex-officio, without vote, as Chairperson of the Committee.</del></p>	This committee will be eliminated
2.43.03.250	<p><del>The Committee shall review, evaluate, and recommend all courses proposed for satisfying the General Education requirements; oversee and monitor the requirements; receive and evaluate all reports required in conjunction with implementing the various competency requirements; encourage and promote the goals of General Education at Wayne State University; and submit an annual report to the President or his/her designee and the University Council on the status of the General Education program.</del></p>	
2.43.03.260 University wide Educational Adjustment Committee		
	<p><del>The Committee shall consider problems encountered by students in meeting the General Education requirements and shall review and recommend on such matters to the President or his/her designee. The President or his/her designee shall establish a fifteen member University-wide Educational Adjustment Committee. Members of the Committee shall serve overlapping three year terms. There will be at least one member from each college and school represented on the Committee. On a rotating basis, three members of the Committee will serve as a hearing panel. The President or his/her designee shall serve as Chairperson of the Committee and of each hearing panel. The University wide Implementation Committee shall designate, on a rotating basis, one of its members as a non-voting liaison to the hearing panel.</del></p>	This committee will be eliminated
2.43.03.270	<p><del>On a regular basis, the University wide Educational Adjustment Committee shall submit a summary of its actions to the University wide Implementation Committee.</del></p>	
2.43.03.NEW	<p><b>General Education Oversight Committee</b></p> <p><b>The president or her/his designee shall establish an Oversight Committee for the purpose of making recommendations on the implementation and review of the General Education curriculum. The Committee will be representative of the university community as a whole and as follows:</b></p>	<p><u>Change in Authority</u></p> <p>7. Replace the General Education Implementation Committee with the General Education Oversight Committee.</p>

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	<p><b>One (1) representative each from the colleges of Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Social Work; two (2) representatives each from the colleges of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, nine (9) representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and one (1) member, <i>ex officio</i> and without vote, from Library and Information Sciences. The committee shall decide the number of student representatives.</b></p> <p><b>committee, without vote, shall be the Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education and General Education.</b></p>	
2.43.03.280 GUIDING PRINCIPLES		
	<p>The philosophy, specific criteria, and guidelines governing the establishment and implementation of the General Education requirements are set forth in the report of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee on General Education requirements, as approved by the Academic Senate on February 5, 1986, and endorsed in principle by the Board of Governors on February 14, 1986. All courses which satisfy the General Education requirements must be approved as General Education courses by the President or his/her designee after review by the <del>University-wide Implementation Committee</del> <b>General Education Oversight Committee</b>. The following general guidelines should prevail in implementation of the requirements:</p>	<p>Changed University-wide Implementation Committee to General Education Oversight Committee.</p>
2.43.03.290	<p><del>• A student cannot present more than one course from any one department to satisfy group General Education requirements.</del> <b>A student can present no more than two courses in any subject area to be counted toward fulfilling either group requirements or exposure areas. Exemption from this limit is for majors in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program for the subject areas IH, ISP IST and ISS and for</b> <del>except where curricular course sequences in certain special programs (Black Studies, Chicano-Boricua Studies, the Honors Program, Weekend College Program) have been deemed equivalent to specified General Education courses by the Implementation Committee.</del> <b>by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.</b></p>	<p>Weekend College = Interdisciplinary Studies</p> <p><u>Group Requirements</u></p> <p>1. Allow up to two courses in any subject area to count toward fulfilling either group requirements or exposure areas (the current plan only allows one);</p>
2.43.03.300	<p>• Equivalent courses taken at another institution may satisfy General Education requirements. In cases where this would exceed the limitation of 64 credit hours from a community college accepted on a transfer basis, such courses shall satisfy the requirements, but their credits will not count toward the degree.</p>	
2.43.03.310	<p>•It is the primary responsibility of departments whose</p>	

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	<p>courses are granted General Education status to schedule these courses to fit the special programming needs of students in professional programs.</p>	
2.43.03.320	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfactory scores on advanced placement examinations (AP and CLEP) and special departmental examinations must be accepted as fulfilling General Education requirements in the appropriate competencies or group requirements.</li> </ul>	
2.43.03.330	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departments, schools and colleges have the responsibility to develop or select tests which students may take to complete competency and group requirements and to recommend those to the <del>Implementation Committee</del> <b>General Education Oversight Committee</b> for review. <b>The president or her/his designee will approve the tests after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Changed the name of Implementation Committee to General Education Oversight Committee and insertion of line of authority for approval.</p>
2.43.03.340	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A student who satisfies competency requirements by examination shall be excused from the related course, but may receive no course credit.</li> </ul>	
2.43.03.350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course credit granted upon earning an appropriate score on advanced placement, CLEP, or departmental examinations will satisfy the General Education group requirement and award credit toward degree requirements.</li> </ul>	
2.43.03.360	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses used to satisfy competency requirements shall not be used to satisfy group requirements.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.43.03.NEW</b>	<b>EXPOSURE AREAS</b>	
	<p><b>In addition to the competency and group requirements, the following three (3) topical areas should be covered:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Cultural Diversity</b></li> <li><b>2. Ethical Issues in Society</b></li> <li><b>3. Science, Technology and Society</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Courses which provide students with these exposures must demonstrate that a substantial percentage of the content of the course deals with the topic in question. But, to reduce the course burden on students, a wider array of courses should be permitted to satisfy these exposures. Existing General education courses may qualify, but so may many other courses.</b></p> <p><b>Such courses could include upper-division courses in various majors, or courses which students take as electives in pursuing their majors – courses which might not meet the criteria for adoption as General Education courses but which contain content sufficient to fulfill these exposures. With such possibilities open, these exposures need not require any additional courses in a student’s normal plan of</b></p>	

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	<b>study.</b>	

### **2.43.03 GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; REQUIREMENTS**

All undergraduate students must fulfill University-wide General Education requirements in the following areas:

#### **COMPETENCIES REQUIREMENTS**

Success in college and the ability to function as an educated citizen require not only the ability to master areas of substantive knowledge, but also a series of fundamental skills that underlie and make possible the acquisition of knowledge. Since competencies or skills are preconditions for higher education, what is needed is demonstration of the competency, not a specific course requirement. Therefore, in the competency areas, multiple methods of demonstrating competency shall be available, including satisfactory completion of designated courses, earning an appropriate score on designated examinations, or, in some instances, satisfactory completion of specified high school courses

#### **Written Communication**

**Basic Composition.** All students must demonstrate competence in basic English composition. Basic composition competence shall be determined by satisfactory completion of a designated course, or its course equivalent; earning advanced placement credit for basic composition; or, passing a prescribed placement examination.

**Intermediate Course.** All students must complete satisfactorily a designated intermediate, or more advanced, course in which the teaching of English composition and rhetoric is a major component.

#### **Proficiency Examination.**

All students must demonstrate proficiency in composition between the completion of 45 and 75 credit hours by passing the Wayne State University English Proficiency Examination. Students posting an unsatisfactory score on this proficiency examination must satisfactorily pass the prescribed English course (e.g., English 1080).

**College/School/Department Requirements.** All students must demonstrate that they have developed the ability to communicate effectively with specialized or professional audiences by completing successfully the writing requirements, or courses which incorporate major writing assignments, specified by the departments or professional schools in which they are seeking a degree.

#### **Mathematics Proficiency**

Proficiency in mathematics must be demonstrated by all students prior to completion of the first 30 credit hours taken at Wayne State University. Mathematics proficiency shall be determined by (i) a “baseline” MAT course at the 1000-level; or (ii) any MAT course at a higher level; or (iii) a course approved by the General Education Oversight Committee as equivalent to the course selected as the baseline for competency. The Mathematics Competency/Placement Examination shall be revised to reflect the baseline course, and the revised examination shall be approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General

Education Oversight Committee. Other acceptable measures are: an appropriate mathematics score on national standardized tests, e.g., CEEB, CLEP; a passing score on designated placement or proficiency tests; or, by satisfactory completion of designated mathematics courses, or their course equivalents.

### Oral Communication

All students must demonstrate competency in the fundamentals of oral communication. Oral communication competency shall be determined by satisfactory completion of a designated basic speech course, or by demonstrating equivalency.

### Computer Literacy

All students must demonstrate basic computer competency and discipline specific proficiency.

#### Level I - Basic Computer Competency (CL):

Prior to the completion of 30 credits at Wayne State University, the Level I requirement should be achieved through one of the following three (3) options.

1. Passing the Basic Computer Competency Examination;
2. Successfully completing a basic computer competency course as approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee;
3. Transferring credit for successful completion of a comparable course taken at another college or university.

#### Level II Computer Proficiency (CP)

Prior to graduation, all students must demonstrate discipline/major/program specific computer literacy. The CP requirement may be a non-credit component of a course within the student's major or a required course in the major, which incorporates computer assignments that facilitate transition to a professional role, including consideration of ethical issues. Student should consult their school or departmental advisers for the approved course(s) in their major.

Colleges/departments/programs, as appropriate, must designate an upper-division course (or courses) to fulfill the CP requirement in their majors. The course should provide guidance in the critical evaluation of electronic resources in the major as well as training in the use of discipline/major/program specific hardware, software, and scholarly electronic resources. The CP course(s) must be approved by the President or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.

### Critical or Analytic Thinking

Competency in critical thinking must be demonstrated by all students prior to completion of the first 75 credits earned toward a bachelor degree. Competency shall be determined by passing a

prescribed test on critical thinking, or by satisfactory completion of a designated course or its equivalent.

## GROUP REQUIREMENTS

Fundamental to any set of General Education requirements at the university level are courses designed to ensure that all students have some exposure to certain branches of knowledge. The group requirements mandate students to take a number of courses in areas outside their fields of special interest to provide the intellectual breadth necessary for completion of the major and for continuing self-education later in life.

All students must fulfill the following group requirements by satisfactory completion of designated courses in each area; or, by an appropriate score on designated placement, national or departmental examinations.

### Natural Sciences

All students are required to complete successfully at least two courses (a minimum of 3 credits each) in the natural sciences (one in the physical sciences and one in the life sciences). To permit the individual student to experience the role of systematic observation in the promulgation of scientific knowledge, a minimum one-credit laboratory or interactive demonstrations or simulations must be associated with at least one of these courses.

### Historical Studies

All students must complete a course in historical studies (minimum of 3 credit hours).

### Social Sciences

All students must complete successfully two courses in the social sciences (minimum of 3 credit hours each). One course must be elected from each of the following two groups: (1) American Society and Institutions; and (2) Social Science.

### Foreign Culture

All students are required to complete at least one course in the study of a foreign culture (minimum of 3 credit hours).

### Humanities

All students must complete successfully two courses in the humanities (minimum of 3 credit hours each). One course must be elected from each of the following two groups: (1) Visual and Performing Arts; (2) Philosophy and Letters. Studio and applied courses in the Visual and Performing Arts must be approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee as demonstrating that the course(s) fulfills the criteria of the Humanities requirement.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The current UGE 1000 will be suspended from the group requirement. The University Library and Information Sciences Program is encouraged to revise their proposal for a General Education course on information technology. The new proposal will be approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.

## AREAS OF EXPOSURE

In addition to the competency and group requirements, the following three (3) topical areas should be covered:

1. Cultural Diversity
2. Ethical Issues in Society
3. Science, Technology and Society

Courses which provide students with these exposures must demonstrate that a substantial percentage of the content of the course deals with the topic in question. But, to reduce the course burden on students, a wider array of courses should be permitted to satisfy these exposures. Existing General Education courses may qualify, but so may many other courses.

Such courses could include upper-division courses in various majors, or courses which students take as electives in pursuing their majors – courses which might not meet the criteria for adoption as General Education courses but which contain content sufficient to fulfill these exposures. With such possibilities open, these exposures need not require any additional courses in a student's normal plan of study.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The General Education Implementation Committee and the University-wide Educational Adjustment Committee (WSUCA 2.43.03.240-270) will be replaced by the General Education Oversight Committee, charged with making recommendations to the President or her/his designee for the implementation and review of the General Education curriculum.

The new Oversight Committee will be representative of the university community as a whole and as follows:

1. One (1) representative each from the colleges of Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Social Work; two (2) representatives each from the colleges of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, nine (9) representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and one (1) member, *ex officio* and without vote, from Library and Information Sciences. The committee shall decide the number of student representatives.
2. The chair of the committee, without vote, shall be the Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education and General Education.

### EFFECTIVE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The General Education requirements shall become effective for students on the following schedule:

Fall 2005: For entering freshmen and students who transfer fewer than 12 credit hours.

Fall 2006: For transfer students who began college work fall 2005 or thereafter.

Fall 2005: For all new undergraduate students.

During the phase-in period, all transfer students must continue to meet the University requirements in mathematics and English proficiency and the American Government requirement.

The President shall establish the date for implementation. That date shall occur at the earliest time consistent with the creation of the necessary courses and competency tests provided by this statute and with the development of administrative mechanisms necessary to monitor student fulfillment of these requirements.