

Review of General Education Courses

Almost all courses that satisfy general education requirements are offered by Arts and Sciences departments, so several years ago, the University Senate charged the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee of the Arts and Sciences Senate with their review. The Committee consists of six faculty members, two each from humanities and fine arts, social and behavioral sciences, and natural sciences, two professional employees, two undergraduates, one graduate student, and the Secretary appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Course proposal forms are submitted under the signature of the department chair. In evaluating courses for satisfaction of general education requirements, the committee reviews the courses to ensure that the specified learning outcomes can be addressed by the proposed texts and topics to be covered. In addition, courses satisfying general education requirements must incorporate a statement of the particular requirement and the learning outcomes for that requirement in the syllabus. If a course is revised substantially, the revisions must be approved by the Curriculum Committee as well.

State University of New York General Education Curriculum

The Trustees of the State University of New York have established a fundamental curriculum with specified learning outcomes that all students in colleges and universities in the state university system must have satisfied upon graduation. Stony Brook's Diversified Education Curriculum has been reviewed and, in the best judgment of the faculty, incorporates these outcomes and expands upon them to ensure that Stony Brook's graduates will have the intellectual skills and understanding necessary to flourish in their future professional and personal lives. The Diversified Education Curriculum requirements are detailed in the University Degree Requirements section later in this chapter. The SUNY general education curriculum specifies learning outcomes in the following areas:

Mathematics

Students must show competence in arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data analysis, and quantitative reasoning.

Stony Brook's Entry Skill 1 Basic Mathematics Competence meets this learning outcome. Note that students must also satisfy category C of the Diversified Education Curriculum, Mathematical and Statistical Reasoning.

Basic Communication and Critical Thinking Competency

Students must identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments as they occur in their own or others' work; develop well-reasoned arguments; produce coherent texts within common college-level written forms; demonstrate the ability to revise and improve such texts; research a topic, develop an argument, and organize supporting details; develop proficiency in oral discourse; and evaluate an oral presentation according to established criteria.

Stony Brook's D.E.C. category A, English Composition, and the upper-division writing requirement and other major requirements, meet these learning outcomes.

Foreign Language

Students must demonstrate basic proficiency in the understanding and use of a foreign language and knowledge of the distinctive features of cultures associated with that language.

Stony Brook's Entry Skill 3, Elementary Foreign Language Competence, meets these learning outcomes. Students must complete two semesters of an elementary foreign language if they have not earned an 85 or higher on the Regents examination in a foreign language.

Information Management

Students must perform the basic operations of personal computer use; understand and use basic research techniques; and locate, evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of sources.

Stony Brook's faculty expect that all students will acquire these skills early in their education at the University. D.E.C. and major requirements reinforce skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century.

Natural Sciences

Students must show understanding of the methods scientists use to explore natural phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical analysis and application of data, concepts, and models in one of the natural sciences.

Stony Brook's D.E.C. category E, Natural Sciences, meets this learning outcome. Note that Stony Brook students must complete two category E courses and must also complete category H-- Implications of Science and Technology.

Social Sciences

Students must demonstrate understanding of the methods of social scientists in exploring social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis and knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences.

Stony Brook's D.E.C. category F, Social and Behavioral Sciences, meets this learning outcome. Note that most Stony Brook students must complete two Category F courses.

American History

Students must demonstrate knowledge of a basic narrative of the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the United States, including knowledge of the unity and diversity of American society; knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups; and an understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world.

Stony Brook's D.E.C. category K, The American Experience in Historical Perspective, meets these learning outcomes. Students in bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree programs must complete one category K course. Note that because Stony Brook's category K courses are typically at the 300 level, providing both a broad introduction to U.S. history and advanced approaches to particular issues, many courses that satisfy the SUNY American history requirement do not in themselves satisfy D.E.C. category K.

Western Civilization

Students must demonstrate knowledge of the development of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture, etc., of western civilization, and relate its development to that of other regions of the world.

Stony Brook's D.E.C. category I European Traditions meets this learning outcome. Students must complete one category I course.

Other World Civilizations

Students must demonstrate knowledge of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture, etc., of a non-western civilization.

Stony Brook's D.E.C. category J, The World Beyond European Traditions, meets this learning outcome. Students must complete one category J course.

Humanities

Students must demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of at least one of the humanities in addition to those encompassed by other knowledge areas required by the SUNY general education curriculum.

Stony Brook's D.E.C. categories B, Interpreting Texts in the Humanities, and G, Humanities and Fine Arts, satisfy this learning outcome. Note that all Stony Brook students must complete one category B course and most students must complete two category G courses.

The Arts

Students must demonstrate understanding of one of the principal forms of artistic expression and the creative process inherent to that art form.

Stony Brook's D.E.C. category D, Understanding the Fine and Performing Arts, meets this learning outcome. Most students must complete one category D course.

Note to Transfer Students:

Students transferring to Stony Brook from other SUNY institutions should consult the Transfer Credit Policies section in the Academic Policies and Regulations chapter of this *Bulletin* for details on how their courses apply to Stony Brook's Diversified Education Curriculum.