

Umass Lowell

General Education Requirements for students who enrolled in September, 2000 and subsequently

(For General Education requirements, for students enrolled prior to 2000, refer to UML catalog 2000-02.) The goals of general education at UMass Lowell are to help students prepare for a career, for responsible citizenship in region, country, and world, and for self-fulfillment throughout life. In consultation with their faculty advisors students choose courses that broaden their knowledge and develop their critical thinking and communication skills. In courses prescribed by their major department they learn to appreciate diversity, to confront ethical choices, to complete projects individually and, with others, and to find information from many sources.

The general education program consists of two parts: a course distribution requirement and requirements to be fulfilled through the student's major program. The general education program addresses seven learning outcomes:

1. Breadth of knowledge
2. Critical thinking
3. Clear communication
4. Diversity
5. Ethics
6. Self-direction and collaboration
7. Information literacy.

The first three learning outcomes should be fulfilled through the course distribution requirement; the remaining four, through courses provided by the major department. Learning outcomes 2) and 3), which are central to the course distribution requirement, will be reinforced throughout the student's major program. All seven learning goals are embedded in the curriculum as a whole.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS The course distribution requirement will consist of a total of 36-38 credits and address three of the learning outcomes:

Breadth of Knowledge (learning outcome #1)

Students must demonstrate familiarity with several different areas of knowledge and several different modes of inquiry (outside their major program). This requirement consists of five categories of courses. All courses in categories c), d), and e) must be chosen from an approved list. No more than two of them may be from the same department, and no more than one may be a technology course.

- a) College Writing 42.101 /102 College Writing I / II
- b) Mathematics 1 course (provided by the Mathematics department)
- c) Arts and Humanities 3 courses
- d) Social Sciences 3 courses

- e) Science and Technology (two must contain an experimental learning component)
3 courses

Total: 36-38 credits

Each general education course in the distribution requirement will provide elements of:

Critical Thinking (learning outcome # 2)

Students must demonstrate the ability to synthesize information, discover connections, differentiate between facts and opinions, assess evidence, draw conclusions, construct arguments on both sides of a debate using the best available evidence, solve problems, develop and test hypotheses.

Clear Communication (learning outcome # 3)

Students must demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively: to articulate, support, and defend a position using appropriate modes of communication.

MAJOR PROGRAM GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Each major program will provide appropriate ways for its students to address the learning outcomes 4-7.

Diversity (learning outcome # 4)

Students must demonstrate the ability to understand diverse groups of peoples, cultures, and views. Diversity is defined broadly to include culture (i.e., national origin, language, ethnicity, and religion), race, gender, social class, age, sexual orientation, and disability. This learning outcome should be met by each student's selection of at least one general education course, major course (or sections of courses) or elective that meets the criteria for significant diversity content. Courses that fulfill the diversity requirement may also count toward other requirements of general education and the major.

Ethics (learning outcome # 5)

Students must demonstrate an awareness of the implications of choosing various principles of action. This learning outcome should be met by each student's selection of a general education course, major course, or elective with significant ethics content. Courses that fulfill the ethics requirement may also count toward other requirements of general education and the major.

Self-Direction and Collaboration (learning outcome # 6)

Students must demonstrate the ability to complete an intellectual project, independently and in collaboration with others. Major programs may choose to meet this learning

outcome by requiring a capstone project, a directed study, or a portfolio of learning experience.

Information Literacy (learning outcome # 7)

Students must demonstrate the ability to use appropriate media to gather information relative to their major field and to access reliable general information. General education 2000 courses are identified in the General Education 2000 column in the schedule book with one of the following designations. AH Arts & Humanities AHD Arts & Humanities plus Diversity AHDE Arts & Humanities plus Diversity and Ethics AHE Arts & Humanities plus Ethics SC Science SCL Science with Laboratory SCLO Science with Laboratory Optional TN Technology TNL Technology with Laboratory TNLO Technology with Laboratory Optional