

General Education

The General Education Program at Bakersfield College includes those courses required of all students, regardless of major or career goals, for the associate degree or for transfer to some four-year institutions. The program is intended to be more than a requirement, it can be an exciting, dynamic and essential part of a student's education.

The General Education Program has been designed to address the needs of men and women of all ages, abilities, ethnic identities, life styles and goals. Through general education, the college seeks to foster knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will empower students to shape the direction of their lives and their environment. Its goal is to encourage students to strive for the highest quality of life, both at leisure and at work, for themselves, their families and the larger community.

Recognizing the certainty of change, the college, through the General Education Program, hopes to prepare students to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Specifically, the program will assist them to develop and acquire the following:

- **Global Consciousness:** an awareness of the complexity and diversity of the world, with its interplay of environmental, social, cultural, political, and economic forces, and an understanding of the unique role that each person plays in the system of relationships which extends from family to the international community.
- **Communication Skills:** the ability to convey ideas, values, feelings, and knowledge accurately and effectively through written, oral, aesthetic, and technological media across personal, cultural, and national boundaries.
- **Adaptability:** the willingness and coincidence to accept and respond creatively to change, and the ability to analyze, think critically, solve problems, and resolve personal and interpersonal conflicts.
- **Responsibility:** A respect for ethics, citizenship, and leadership, and a commitment to personal health and emotional growth which enable one to participate in life rather than react to it.
- **Knowledge:** the body of information, reflecting both quantitative and qualitative reasoning, in the arts, sciences, and technology, their modes of inquiry and expression, their interrelationships, and the methods of accessing information in all areas of study.

The general education program thus seeks to assist students to succeed in the present and to inspire them to approach the future with a commitment to life-long learning.

Because certain basic competencies are necessary for an educated person, the General Education Program specifically requires competency testing (or course alternatives) in reading, written expression, and mathematics.

Institutional Level Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of an associate degree, a student will:

- I. Pursue knowledge and evaluate its consequences
 - A. Think critically, abstractly, logically, and algorithmically to evaluate and solve problems.
 - B. Integrate new information to formulate principles and theories and display openness to different opinions.
 - C. Share the desire for intellectual creativity and acquisition of knowledge.
- II. Communicate clearly and effectively in both written and oral forms.
- III. Demonstrate knowledge and abilities in a chosen area of study.
 - A. Demonstrate an understanding of resources and procedures of a field and the ability to use them.
 - B. Demonstrate the ability to use current technology to acquire, organize, and analyze information appropriately.
 - C. Possess a core of knowledge and skills in a chosen field.
- IV. Appreciate their civic responsibilities.
 - A. Reflect upon the cultural and ethical dimensions of life.
 - B. Contribute to society as an actively engaged citizen.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes

A.1. Oral Communication

1. Form and present informative persuasive messages.

2. Demonstrate competence in both active and emphatic listening.
3. Present oral messages to appropriate audiences and adhere to conventions of message delivery.
4. Manage personal communication apprehension and anxiety.

A.2. Written Communication

1. Identify the controlling idea and the main points of college-level expository and argumentative essays.
2. Evaluate expository and argumentative essays through the application of critical thinking techniques.
3. Write logical and coherent expository and argumentative essays, summaries and paraphrases using correctly the standard conventions of written English.

B.1. Natural Sciences

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of natural phenomena and recognize the processes that explain them.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of scientific methodologies when solving a problem.

B.2. Mathematics and Logic (Analytic Thinking)

1. Apply formal systems of reasoning in solving problems or analyzing arguments.

C.1. Introduction to the Arts

1. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the ways in which arts, literature, philosophy or foreign languages reflect historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts, as well as aesthetic tastes.
2. Demonstrate the ability to recognize, describe and/or produce various components of an art form or language either visually and/or auditorily.

C.2. Introduction to the Humanities

1. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the ways in which arts, literature, philosophy or foreign languages reflect historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts, as well as aesthetic tastes.

D.1. Foundations in the Behavioral Sciences

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories, methods and core concepts of the behavioral sciences.
2. Explain the major problems and issues in the disciplines in their contemporary, historical and geographical contexts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the contributions and perspectives of women, ethnic and other minorities, and Western and non- Western peoples.

D.2. Foundations in the Social Sciences

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories, methods, and core concepts of the social sciences.
2. Explain the major problems and issues in the disciplines in their contemporary, historical and geographical contexts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the contributions and perspectives of women, ethnic and other minorities, and Western and non- Western peoples.

D.3. American (U.S.) Institutions

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories, methods, and core concepts of the social sciences.
2. Explain the major problems and issues in the disciplines in their contemporary, historical and geographical contexts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the contributions and perspectives of women, ethnic and other minorities, and Western and non-Western peoples.

E. Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development

1. Critically examine the development of the individual as an integrated physiological, psychological, spiritual, and social being.
2. Identify, describe and explain the interactions of the internal and external influences and effects in human development and behavior over the course of the human life span.

Bakersfield College General Education Pattern

A. Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking (6 units)

Courses in language and rationality are those which develop for the student the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation and communication. Take 3 units in A.1 and 3 units in A.2.

A.1. Oral Communication (3 units) COMM B1, B2, B4, B8

A.2. Written Communication (3 units) ENGL B1a, B3

B. Physical Universe and Life Forms (6 units)

Courses in the natural sciences are those that examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. Further, courses in the natural sciences help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method. Courses in the natural sciences, math and logic help students apply logical, qualitative and quantitative reasoning in solving problems or analyzing arguments. Take 3 units in B.1 and 3 units in B.2.

B.1. Natural Sciences (3 units)

• **Life Sciences:**

- ANSC B1
- ANTH B1
- BIOL B3a, B7, B11, B16, B18, B20, B32, B33
- CRPS B1, B10
- FORE B2
- PSYC B1b
- SOIL B1
- **Physical Sciences:**
- ASTR B1, B2, B3
- CHEM B1a, B2a, B11, B18
- ERSC B10; B10L
- GEOG B1, B1L, B3
- GEOL B10, B10L, B11, B11L
- PHSC B12
- PHYS B2a, B4a

B.2. Mathematics and Logic Analytical Thinking (3 units)

- COMM B5
- MATH BD, B1a, B1b, B2, B4a, B6a, B6b, B6c, B22, B23, B70
- PHIL B7, B9
- PSYC B5, B6

C. Arts, Literature, Philosophy and Foreign Language (3 units)

Courses in the Arts, Literature, Philosophy and Foreign Language are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. The courses will help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them. Art and language study may consist of historical or stylistic survey courses, courses involving speaking (signing) and understanding a language, hands-on creation or re-creation of examples of visual or performing arts, and/or courses which develop specific skills necessary for engaging in visual or performing arts.

C.1. Arts

- ART B1, B2, B4, B5, B10, B16, B17, B20, B24, B35, B36, B37*
- MUSC B2, B4ab, B5ab, B6ab, B9ab, B10a, B12a, B13a, B14a, B17a, B21A, B21B, B22, B23, B24*, B27

- **ORNH** B36
- **SPAN** B1ab

- **THEA** B1, B2a, B2b, B12a, B20, B27, B31, B32

C.2. Humanities

- **ASL** B1, B2, B3, B4, B7
- **COMM** B21
- **ENGL** B1b, B5a, B5b, B10, B20a*, B21, B24, B27, B30a, B30b
- **ENSL** B31
- **JAPN** B1, B2, B3
- **PHIL** B6a, B10, B12, B18, B32, B33, B37*
- **SPAN** B1ab, B2ab, B3, B4, B10, B35

D. Social, Political, Legal and Economic Institution and Behavior, Historical Background

(9 units for AA; 6 units for AS)

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as individuals and as members of society. The courses will help the student develop an understanding of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. For an Associate in Arts degree, choose six units from D.1 and/or D.2 and 3 units from D.3. For an Associate in Science degree, take 3 units from either D.1 or D.2 and three units from D.3.

D.1. Foundations in the Behavioral Sciences

- **CHDV** B21
- **COMM** B6*
- **PSYC** B1a, B20 (SOI B20), B33, B40
- **SOI** B20 (PSYC B20)

D.2. Foundation in the Social Sciences

- **AGRI** B1
- **AGBS** B2
- **ANTH** B2*, B3, B5*
- **BSAD** B20
- **COMM** B7
- **CRIM** B1, B5
- **ECON** B1, B2
- **GEOG** B2*
- **HIST** B1, B2*, B4a*, B4b*, B15, B17a*, B17b*, B18*, B20a*, B20b, B25*, B30a*, B30b*, B33*, B36*
- **JRNL** B1*
- **POLS** B1*, B2*, B3*, B12*, B16
- **PSYC** B20 (SOI B20)
- **SOI** B1*, B2, B20 (PSYC B20), B28*, B36*, B45*

D.3. American (U.S. Institutions)

- **HIST** B4a*, B4b*, B17a*, B17b*, B18*, B20a*, B20b*, B30b*, B36*
- **POLS** B1*, B12*

E. Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development (4 units)

Courses in this area will prepare students for lifelong integrated physiological and psychological development.

Take 3 units from one of the following courses:

- **HLED** B1
- **NUTR** B10
- **MEDS** B35, or completion of an approved Allied Health Program (RN, Rad Tech, or LVN)
- **PHED** B36
- **PSYC** B1a, B30, B33
- **STDV** B6

No more than one unit of activity/skills course work may be used to satisfy the Area E requirement. Take 1 unit from the following PHED courses:

• **PHED** B2sb, B3adp, B6a, B6bb, B6bLb, B6fcx, B6g, B6jd, B6sc, B6t, B6v, B6wt, B10, B11, B12, B13, B14, B16, B17, B20, B22, B23, B24, B25, B26, B27, B28, B29, B32, B33

**Course satisfies the Multicultural Requirement.*

Multicultural Requirement

Bakersfield College requires students to take courses that are inclusive of multicultural perspectives found in American and global society. This requirement may be satisfied through studying either American ethnic groups or world cultures.

Note: Students must complete at least one class identified with an (*) to satisfy the Multicultural Requirement for graduation. The following courses satisfy both a Bakersfield College General Education category and the Multicultural Requirement:

- **ANTH** B2, B5
- **ART** B37
- **COMM** B6
- **ENGL** B20a
- **GEOG** B2
- **HIST** B2, B4a, B4b, B17a, B17b, B18, B20a, B20b, B25, B30a, B30b, B33, B36
- **JRNL** B1
- **MUSC** B24
- **PHIL** B37
- **POLS** B1, B2, B3, B12
- **SOCI** B1, B28, B36, B45

The following non-general education courses also satisfy the Multicultural Requirement:

- **ASL** B6
- **CHDV** B32

General Education Options for Transfer

Bakersfield College students transferring to a California State University or University of California campus have three options for completing their general education requirements. Each option offers advantages and disadvantages. These should be examined carefully. Bakersfield College counselors and advisors can help students carefully examine the available options.

Two of the primary choices for general education are the California State University General Education Breadth pattern and the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). Both the California State University and IGETC patterns should be seriously considered. The third option is the specific general education pattern for each University of California or California State University campus taken by students who begin their studies at that university. Few transfer students follow this option because the student must match the courses and pattern required at a specific university and Bakersfield College cannot certify completion of this option.

ASSIST

ASSIST is a web-based articulation and transfer planning system that can be accessed at www.assist.org. It describes how course credits earned at one California college or university can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California's colleges and universities and, therefore, provides the most accurate and up-to-date information available about student transfer in California. For further information, see a counselor.