POLICY ON GENERAL EDUCATION
(GE Policy)

(This policy supersedes Policy Statements 01-08, 00-00, 98-00, 96-00, 91-12)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

Students at CSULB earn highly valued degrees by completing at least two programs: their degree program (major) and CSULB's General Education (GE) Program. While the major focuses on discipline-specific education and sometimes prepares students for specific professions, the GE Program teaches a

2.0 STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The GE Program is organized as three sequential stages.

- The first is the Foundation: four courses designed to provide fundamental learning skills.
- The second is Explorations: nine courses (except when a tenth course in laboratory activity is allowed as described in Section 3.2.2.1 below) distributed across the curriculum that are intended to provide an opportunity to explore the various way of acquiring and examining knowledge while continuing to develop learning skills.
- The third is Upper-Division GE Courses: three courses designed to integrate knowledge and skills developed earlier in the curriculum.

In completing the Foundation, Explorations, and Upper-Division stages of the GE Program, all students must complete the distribution pattern described in Section 3.0 below. At the upper-division level, students must take one three-unit course each in Areas B, C, and D. These courses should be taken either at California State University, Long Beach or another California State University campus. In order to bring coherence to the Upper-Division GE Courses and the entire GE Program, students may pursue a Concentration of courses (see below Section 5.0).

2.1 Academic Preparation

All students are assessed for readiness for baccalaureate-level work in written communication in English and mathematics/quantitative reasoning. Students who have demonstrated a need for additional support in written communication in English and mathematics/quantitative reasoning will be placed in courses that provide such academic support, for instance through prerequisites or stretch components, as mandated in CSU Executive Order 1110 on Assessment of Academic Preparation (EO 1110).

2.2 Foundation

Courses must meet two sets of criteria: the general criteria for what constitutes a GE course, and the specific criteria for the Area or Subarea in which they are being certified.

3.1 General Criteria

All courses in the GE Program must demonstrably encourage development of academic skills. GE Courses should include, as an integral component of teaching, sensitivity to different points of view and diverse learning methods.

When requesting GE certification for a certain Area or Subarea a course may be the only exposure a student gets to that Area or Subarea. The course as a whole—and not the general topic or discipline—must be appropriate to that Area or Subarea and taught at the university level. Rather than GE being an afterthought to make a course fit into that Area or Subarea, with just perfunctory treatment or minimal coverage of the Area or Subarea, a course must be created around the concept of covering GE explicitly, directly, thoroughly, and significantly, integrating the Area or Subarea throughout the course. The course may simultaneously cover discipline-specific material; however, that material must be integrated with the GE content.

3.2 Lower-Division Courses

3.2.1 Area A, English Language Communication and Critical Thinking

3.2.1.1 Distribution

Students must complete nine units in Area A, English Language Communication and Critical Thinking (all courses at the lower-division level), as follows:

- Area A1: Three units chosen from approved courses in Oral Communication.
- Area A2: Three units chosen from approved courses in Written Communication.
- Area A3: Three units chosen from approved courses in Critical Thinking.

3.2.1.2 Criteria

3.2.1.2.1 Criteria for Subareas A1, Oral Communication, and A2, Written Communication

Courses in fulfillment of Subareas A1 and A2 will develop students' knowledge and understanding of the form, content, context, and effectiveness of communication. Students will examine communication from the rhetorical perspective by practicing accuracy, reasoning, organization, and persuasion. Students will enhance their information literacy skills by developing their abilities to find, critically evaluate, organize, and report information, and by reading, writing, and listening effectively. Instruction will provide an understanding of the psychological basis and social significance of communication, including how communication operates in various situations.

3.2.1.2.1.1 Criteria for Subarea A1, Oral Communication

Courses in fulfillment of Subarea A1 will develop students' proficiency in oral communication in English. Coursework

units.

- Area B4: Three units chosen from approved courses in Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning.
- Area B-UD: Three units chosen from any upper-division course in Area B.

3.2.2.2 Criteria

3.2.2.2.1 Criteria for Subareas B1, Physical Science, B2, Life Science, and B3, Laboratory Courses

In Subareas B1, B2, and B3, students will develop knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data about both living and non-living systems. Students will achieve an understanding and appreciation of scientific principles and the scientific method. Potential limits of scientific endeavors and the value systems and ethics associated with human inquiry may also be explored as appropriate for the course. Wherever appropriate, courses may address the influence that the acquisition of scientific knowledge has had on the development of the world's civilizations.

3.2.2.2.1.1 Criteria for Subarea B1, Physical Science

contemporary dynamics of the American presidency, the United States Congress and the federal judiciary;

- an introduction to constitutionally and legislatively established administrative and regulatoryinstitutions;
- an analysis of bureaucracies and their impact on citizens at the national, state, and local levels;
- an analysis of the US citizenry, including demography, political culture, public opinion and political

3.3.1 Courses requesting certification at the upper-division level must meet the general criteria for GE Courses articulated in Section 3.1, the content criteria of at least one of the Subareas, and general upper-division criteria for GE Courses articulated in Section (3.3). However, these courses will only be categorized as UD-, C-UD, and D-UD.

3.3.2 Each UD GE category must offer courses intended for students without prior experience in the discipline beyond an introductory course. Upper-division course may have prerequisites that are not on the General Education Master Course List (i.e., discipline-specific prerequisites).

3.3.3 All courses approved for Area C at the upper-division level must [illegible]

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To complete a Concentration, students must:

4.1.4 declare the

Except in the case of courses that have not yet been offered, departments may be asked to