

## **ADVISOR'S BRIEF GUIDE TO GE2000**

General Education 2000 is designed to do four things:

- 1) Help students develop key basic skills for academic success in college and for life beyond college as well (*Writing--Basic and Advanced; Oral Proficiency; Computer Literacy; Critical Thinking*);
- 2) Expose students to a wide array of knowledge areas (scholarly disciplines) so that they will understand how specialists in different fields make sense of the world (*Knowledge Foundations*);
- 3) Develop the students' knowledge and understanding of American history and cultural diversity and of Western civilization and non-Western cultures as well (*America & the Western Heritage; Foreign Language; Human Diversity*); and
- 4) Engage students in the exploration of complex issues, using insights and perspectives from different disciplines (*Intellectual Issues*).

In addition to emphasizing the value of this General Education program (broad liberal education; intellectual versatility; etc.), as well as the student's major (field of specialization, mastery), the advisor should note that Gen Ed and the major overlap in several ways. Courses can count for Gen Ed and major requirements at the same time; some parts of Gen Ed (e.g., Advanced Expository Writing) are purposely embedded in the major; while other parts can or must be satisfied (e.g., Human Diversity and Intellectual Issues, respectively) with upper-division course work. Gen Ed is not to be viewed as simply a collection of lower-division courses to be "gotten out of the way" so that work in the student's "real" area of interest – the major – can proceed. Student and advisor both should focus on the curricular opportunities and value to be found in the Gen Ed program. And every advisor should be an advocate for Gen Ed as well as an expert on the particulars of academic work in one department or discipline.

### **I. ALL-COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS**

- Satisfy requirements of the major
- Satisfy General Education requirements
- 122 credit hours to graduate (in most instances)
- 60 credit hours from 4-year institution
- 30 credit hours from SUNY Oswego
- ½ of credit hours in the major from SUNY Oswego
- 48 credit hours maximum in any one department
- 42 credit hours upper division (300-400 level)
- 90 credit hours in Liberal Arts for B.A. (B.S. & B.F.A. requirements vary)
- 2.0 overall GPA
- 2.0 GPA in Major
- Credit hour limitations on Internships, Independent Studies, Practica
- MAX100/101 *do not count* toward graduation credit hours

## **II. NEW STUDENTS & TRANSFER STUDENTS – NON-DEGREE HOLDING\***

*Suggested sequence for determining appropriate courses in the first years:*

- 1) AP or Transfer Credits? — Check to avoid unnecessary duplication.
- 2) GE Math Qualified? MAT106/206 requires a Competency Exam
  - a) YES – Place in appropriate course
  - b) NO – Recommend MAX100/MAX101.
- 3) GE English102
  - a) Determine if designated for Fall or Spring.
  - b) Determine if designated for ENG101.
  - c) Inform students with outstanding Regents/SAT scores of waiver exam. Refer them to the English department.
- 4) GE Computer Literacy— Inform student of waiver exam. Otherwise, suggest appropriate course. Check for major cognate in this area.
- 5) GE Critical Thinking— Inform student of waiver exam. Otherwise, suggest appropriate course. Check for major cognate in this area.
- 6) GE Foreign Language— Check high school record for 1 year beyond Regents 3. Otherwise, suggest 101 or 102 level, depending on previous study.
- 7) Hart Hall —Select a course from the approved list.
- 8) Gateway/Core courses in the major and/or minor.
- 9) Knowledge Foundations courses— Check for exemptions based on major.
- 10) American History and/or Western Civilization

Students should strive to complete the Basic Skills (Writing; Computer Literacy; Critical Thinking) and Foreign Language requirements first— i.e., during the first year of course work at Oswego. These skills are designed to prepare the student for success in college-level courses across the board.

Foreign language proficiency can also prove to be useful in other courses. But in addition, the student should be encouraged to fulfill that GE2000 requirement relatively early on because that makes it possible to build effectively on language study completed during high school. The longer a student waits before resuming foreign language study, the less he or she is likely to remember from those prior years of instruction. Postponing college-level language study till the

second or third year only makes sense if, for whatever reason, the student has little or no prior experience with or proficiency in the language chosen (and thus nothing to “build on”).

After Basic Skills and Foreign Language, the Knowledge Foundations requirements should get priority. These should all be completed (taking the student’s area of exemption into account) during the first two years of course work at Oswego. These courses, as the requirement’s label suggests, are designed to be “foundational” in at least two senses: first, they introduce the student to the ways in which particular scholarly disciplines ask and answer questions about the world and thus they serve as a basis for further course work in those disciplines; second, they set the stage for more advanced course work in the General Education program itself. For instance, the Intellectual Issues courses are designed for students who have satisfied their Basic Skills and Knowledge Foundations requirements in full.

Of all the Knowledge Foundations requirements, that in Mathematics is the most likely to be put off or neglected by the incoming student. For that reason, and because— like foreign language instruction—the college-level Math courses approved for Gen Ed depend on proficiency acquired in high school study of the subject, it is important for the advisor to encourage the student to satisfy this requirement as early as possible. Remember that enrolling in any Math 106/206 course for this Gen Ed requirement has a prerequisite, namely the demonstration of “math competency” by passing the Math Department’s competency exam.

**\*For transfer students who matriculated prior to Fall 2000 but lack a degree, advisors should consult with the Director of General Education as to which GE Program is deemed most appropriate.**

### **III. TRANSFER STUDENTS – DEGREE-HOLDING WHO MATRICULATED FALL 2000 AND LATER**

SUNY-wide policy dictates that every graduate of a baccalaureate program who matriculated or will matriculate at a SUNY school in Fall 2000 or later will have to have satisfied the 10 requirements and 2 competencies of the SUNY-GER.

Students graduating from community colleges and going on to four-year colleges and universities will often arrive at Oswego having already satisfied some of the requirements (and both competencies) if they come to us with an associate's degree. However, they will be expected to satisfy the remaining General Education requirements.

With respect to Oswego's local general education requirements, above and beyond the SUNY-GER, every transfer student from schools with whom SUNY Oswego has a general articulation agreement, who comes to us with an AA, AS, or AAS degree, should:

- be considered to have satisfied Computer Literacy through “infusion”.
- be considered to have satisfied Critical Thinking through “infusion”.
- be exempted from the second required course in Knowledge Foundations: Natural Sciences.
- be exempted from the second required course in Knowledge Foundations: Social and Behavioral Sciences.
- be exempted from the lower-division component of the writing plan in the student's major.
- complete one college semester of a foreign language (or the high school equivalent--3 years through Regents exam).
- complete a math course which indicates “readiness” to take pre-calculus (e.g., MAT104).
- complete the local requirements not covered by articulation, which include:
  - Human Diversity – 6 sh (Which may be taken on or off campus.)
  - Intellectual Issues – 6 sh (Which may NOT be taken off campus.)

### **IV. TRANSFER STUDENTS – DEGREE-HOLDING WHO MATRICULATED *PRIOR* TO FALL 2000**

Transfer students holding an A.A. or an A.S. degree, who matriculated *prior* to Fall 2000 from schools with whom SUNY Oswego has a general articulation agreement, will have all general education requirements waived with the exception of:

- Human Diversity – 6 sh (Which may be taken on or off campus.)
- Intellectual Issues – 6 sh (Which may NOT be taken off campus.)

## V. NOTES:

- For the current list of approved GE courses, see [[www.oswego.edu/gened/](http://www.oswego.edu/gened/)]
- General Education courses may not be taken pass/fail.
- One course can be used to satisfy two (or more) requirements, except that:
- No course satisfying the American History requirement will at the same time satisfy the Tolerance and Intolerance requirement (in Human Diversity).
- Courses that satisfy requirements for the major or minor can also be used to satisfy General Education requirements.
- General Education courses (with the exception of Intellectual Issues) can be taken off-campus, as long as approval is secured in advance.
- Passing scores on college-level competency exams (e.g., Advanced Placement or CLEP) may be used to earn credits and, where appropriate, satisfy General Education requirements.
- Waiver exams are given in the three Basic Skills areas (passing one of these exams satisfies a requirement but earns no credits for the student). Open to new students only.
- Math competency must be demonstrated by the student before she or he enrolls in any Math 106/206 course at Oswego.
- Foreign Language requirement can be satisfied by high school study of another language through Regents Level 4; high school study of two other languages (through Level 2 in each); or completion of a 102-level college language course or equivalent.
- Only students in Teacher Education or other programs leading to careers where there is likely to be significant contact with the hearing impaired may use ASL to satisfy the Foreign Language Requirement.
- Intellectual Issues courses have as a prerequisite the completion of Basic Skills and Knowledge Foundations courses or permission of instructor.