STEM Students who are eligible to use the IGETC for STEM Majors

Students preparing for a major in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics are eligible to complete IGETC for STEM Majors, a separate IGETC track designed specifically for these disciplines. For certification under IGETC for STEM Majors, students must complete the following:

- All courses in Areas 1 (except 1C for UC bound students), 2, and 5 of the traditional IGETC; and
- Two courses in Area 3 and two courses in Area 4, as well as one course for UC-bound students who have not satisfied 6A through proficiency

One remaining lower-division general education course in Area 3 and one remaining lower-division general education course in Area 4 will be completed after transfer. This general education plan will allow STEM students to concentrate on the required lower division math and science courses needed for success in the major. These deferred lower division general education courses must be replaced in coursework before transfer with calculus and/or major science courses required by the major. Students are eligible to complete the IGETC for STEM Majors option only if it would be impossible for them to complete both major-major preparation coursework and either IGETC and/or the CSU GE Breadth plan within 60 units prior to transfer. *This option will apply only for majors in which the TMC explicitly indicates the availability of the option.* At present, this includes only Chemistry.

Alternatively, STEM students may complete the traditional IGETC. However, IGETC and IGETC for STEM Majors may not be appropriate for those colleges or majors which prefer that transfer students follow a more prescribed lower-division curriculum.

Students transferring to the CSU should refer to degreewithaguarantee.org for details on which Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) degrees will allow IGETC for STEM Majors and which ones require the traditional IGETC certification. If any specific AS-T degree allows IGETC for STEM Majors as its general education pattern, the specific courses that should replace the deferred lower division general education courses may be indicated on the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) for that discipline.

Students transferring to the UC should refer to the following website for information on colleges and majors which do not recommend IGETC or IGETC for STEM Majors: [http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/counselors/transfer/advising/igetc/index.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/counselors/transfer/advising/igetc/index.html)
Coursework taken in fulfillment of this requirement must include a reasonable distribution among the subareas specified, as opposed to restricting the entire number of units required to a single subarea.

**Area D  Social Sciences**  
**Minimum of 12 semester units or 18 quarter units**

A minimum of twelve semester units or eighteen quarter units dealing with human social, political, and economic institutions and behavior and their historical background.

Students learn from courses in multiple Area D disciplines that human social, political and economic institutions and behavior are inextricably interwoven. Through fulfillment of the Area D requirement, students will develop an understanding of problems and issues from the respective disciplinary perspectives and will examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts. Students will explore the principles, methodologies, value systems and ethics employed in social scientific inquiry. Courses that emphasize skills development and professional preparation are excluded from Area D. Coursework taken in fulfillment of this requirement must include a reasonable distribution among the subareas specified, as opposed to restricting the entire number of units required to a single subarea.

**Area E  Lifelong Learning and Self-Development**  
**Minimum of 3 semester units or 4 quarter units**

A minimum of three semester units or four quarter units in study designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings.

Student learning in this area shall include selective consideration of content such as human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, financial literacy, social relationships and relationships with the environment, as well as implications of death and dying and avenues for lifelong learning. Physical activity may be included, provided that it is an integral part of the study elements described herein.

**Article 5. Transfer and Articulation**

This article pertains to regionally accredited non-CSU institutions that certify transfer students’ fulfillment of CSU General Education Breadth requirements.
5.1 Premises of General Education Breadth Transfer and Certification

a. It is the joint responsibility of the public segments of higher education to ensure that students are able to transfer without unreasonable loss of credit or time.

b. The faculty of an institution granting the baccalaureate degree have primary responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the degree program and determining when requirements have been met.

c. There shall ordinarily be a high degree of reciprocity among regionally accredited institutions unless there are specific indications that such reciprocity is not appropriate.

5.2 Conditions for Participation in CSU General Education Breadth Certification

Any institution that is accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association and that offers the BA or BS degree or the first two years of such degree programs may participate in General Education Breadth certification if it agrees to the following provisions:

a. The participating institution shall designate a liaison representative who shall participate in various orientation activities and provide other institutional staff with pertinent information.

b. The participating institution shall identify for certification purposes those courses or examinations that fulfill the objectives set forth in Article 3 of this executive order and such additional objectives as may be promulgated by the chancellor of the California State University.

1. The courses and examinations identified should be planned and organized to enable students to acquire abilities, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation as interrelated elements, not as isolated fragments.

2. Interdisciplinary courses or integrated sets of courses that meet multiple objectives of the CSU General Education Breadth requirements may be appropriate components of general education.

3. Credit units of an interdisciplinary course or integrated set of courses may be distributed among different areas of general education, as appropriate.
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c. The CSU Office of the Chancellor, Division of Academic Affairs, shall maintain a list of participating institutions’ courses and examinations that have been identified and accepted for certification purposes.

1. Each entry in the list shall include specification of the area or areas and objectives to which the course or examination relates and the number of units associated with each area or objective. (See Attachment A.)

2. The list shall be updated annually. Each participating institution shall transmit annually to the CSU Office of the Chancellor, Division of Academic Affairs, any proposed changes to its portion of the list. If a course is to be added or if the specification of areas and objectives for a course is to be modified, the participating institution shall include in its submission the approved course outline. If a course is part of an integrated set of courses, the submission shall identify the set and describe how the course complements the others in the set.

3. A copy of the list shall be made available in printed or electronic form to any CSU campus or participating institution. Participating institutions are free to share their course outlines and communications from the CSU about those course outlines with other participating institutions.

4. The participating institution shall be responsible for reviewing periodically its portion of the list to assure that entries continue to be appropriate and to reflect current knowledge in the field. It is also responsible for re-approving entries that are found to have remained appropriate and for directing to the subcommittee of the Chancellor’s General Education Advisory Committee any questions such updating of the courses may have raised as to their congruence with CSU General Education Breadth areas and objectives.

5. The participating institution shall report certification for individual students in a format to be specified.

5.3 Certification Requirements

5.3.1 Definition
General education “certification” shall indicate that a participating institution has verified that a transfer student has met CSU lower-division requirements. CSU campuses shall accept participating institutions’ full certification or subject-area certification, as defined below.
5.3.2 Full Certification

5.3.2.1 Fulfillment of Lower-Division Requirements
Students admitted to a CSU campus with full certification shall not be held to any additional lower-division general education requirements.

5.3.2.2 Additional Lower-Division Graduation Requirements
Full certification does not exempt students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the general education program of the campus awarding the degree.

5.3.2.3 Qualification for Full Certification
To qualify for full certification, a student must satisfactorily complete no fewer than 39 lower-division semester units or 58 lower-division quarter units of instruction appropriate to meet the objectives of Articles 3 (Premises) and 4 (Distribution Areas). Community college certification does not guarantee that all CSU campus admission requirements have been met. The units must be distributed as follows below (except as specified in Subsection 5.3.4 below):

a. In Area A, no fewer than 9 semester units (12-15 quarter units), including instruction in oral communication, written communication, and critical thinking.

b. In Area B, no fewer than 9 semester units (12-15 quarter units), including instruction in physical science and life science, at least one part of which must include a laboratory component, and mathematics/quantitative reasoning.

c. In Area C, no fewer than 9 semester units (12-15 quarter units), with at least one course in the arts and one in the humanities (see Attachment A).

d. In Area D, no fewer than 9 semester units (12-15 quarter units), with courses taken in at least two disciplines (see Attachment A).
e. In Area E, no fewer than 3 semester units (4-5 quarter units).

5.3.3 Subject-Area (Partial) Certification

5.3.3.1 Fulfillment of Lower-Division Requirements by Area
Students admitted to a CSU campus with subject-area certification may not be held to any additional lower-division general education coursework in the subject areas certified.

5.3.3.2 Certification Limits on Credits that Exceed Minimum Subject-Area Requirements
For subject-area certification, campuses are not required to certify credits that exceed the minimum number of units required for the five Subject Areas—A through E.

5.3.3.3 Additional Lower-Division Graduation Requirements
Subject-area certification does not exempt students from completing unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the general education requirements at the campus awarding the degree.

5.3.3.4 Qualification for Subject-Area Certification
To qualify for subject-area certification, a student must satisfactorily complete instruction appropriate to meet the objectives of one or more subsections of Article 4 (Subject-Area Distribution). Except as specified in Subsection 5.3.4, the units must be distributed as follows:

a. For Area A, no fewer than 9 semester units (12-15 quarter units), including instruction in oral communication, written communication, and critical thinking. A single course may not be certified as meeting more than one subarea for any given student.

b. For Area B, no fewer than 9 semester units (12-15 quarter units), including instruction in mathematics/quantitative reasoning and physical science and life science, at least one part of which must include a laboratory component. A single course may not be certified as meeting more than one subarea for any given student, except for laboratory components incorporated into a physical or life science course.
c. For Area C, no fewer than 9 semester units (12-15 quarter units), with at least one course in the arts and one in the humanities (see Attachment A).

d. For Area D, no fewer than 9 semester units (12-15 quarter units), with courses taken in at least two disciplines (see Attachment A).

e. For Area E, no fewer than 3 semester units (4-5 quarter units).

5.3.4 Exceptions to Certification Requirements
At the discretion of the campus, exceptions to the requirements for full certification and subject-area certification (as specified above) may be made for programs in which instruction is integrated into a set of courses or into interdisciplinary courses designed to meet multiple objectives. Interdisciplinary courses in this case would be expected to be offered at an appropriately greater number of units.

5.4 Certification of Courses and Examinations

5.4.1 Qualification for Certification
A participating institution may certify completion of courses or examinations taken at other eligible institutions, provided that all such courses and examinations would be identified for certification purposes by the institution offering them.

5.4.2 If so identified, those courses and examinations shall contribute to qualification of a student for either full certification or subject-area certification, as appropriate.

5.4.3 California Community Colleges may include non-CSU upper-division courses in certification of lower-division CSU General Education Breadth or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum.

5.5 Limitations of Certification

5.5.1 Restriction to General Education Requirements
Neither full certification nor subject-area certification exempts students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements that may exist outside of the general education program of the campus awarding the degree.
5.5.2 Maximum Number of Credits Allowed

5.5.2.1 Limit on Certification on Total General Education Units
A participating institution shall not certify a student for more than 39 semester units or the quarter equivalent. If more than one participating institution certifies a student, the CSU campus granting the degree is not required to accept certification for more than 39 semester units or the quarter equivalent.

5.5.2.2 Limit on Certification of Units in Areas B through D
A participating institution shall not certify a student for more than 30 semester units (45 quarter units) total in subject areas B through D combined. If more than one participating institution certifies a student, the CSU campus granting the degree is not required to accept certification for more than 30 semester units (45 quarter units) total in subject areas B through D combined.

5.5.2.3 Limit on Requirements After Transfer
Upon transfer, no student shall be required to complete more units in General Education Breadth than the difference between the number certified in accordance with this executive order and the total units in General Education Breadth required by the campus granting the degree.

5.5.2.4 Restrictions on Certification of Upper-Division Courses
Baccalaureate-granting institutions certifying a student for units earned in upper-division courses or examinations may provide certification only for those units that were completed during or after the term in which the student achieved upper-division status (i.e., earned a total of at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units).

5.6 General Education Reciprocity Among CSU Campuses

5.6.1 Full Lower-Division Reciprocity
a. Full lower-division reciprocity is the process through which all lower-division general education requirements that one CSU campus has
designated as having been satisfactorily and entirely completed shall be accepted as fulfilling all lower-division general education requirements of the CSU campus granting the baccalaureate degree—without regard to differences that may exist between the GE requirements of two campuses.

b. A course or examination is to be regarded as satisfactorily completed if the student’s performance meets the minimum standards for full acceptance toward satisfying a requirement as set by the campus at which the course or examination was taken.

c. For the purposes of this section, completion of lower-division general education requirements is equivalent to qualification for full certification, as defined in Article 5 above.

5.6.2 Reciprocity as Fulfillment of Full Lower-Division General Education Requirements
Transfer students admitted with documentation of full lower-division general education program completion at another CSU campus shall not be held to any additional lower-division general education requirements by the campus awarding the degree.

5.6.3 Reciprocity for Subject-Area General Education Requirements

5.6.3.1 Definition
a. Subject-area lower-division reciprocity is the process through which lower-division general education subject-area requirements designated by CSU campuses as having been satisfactorily completed shall be recognized as fulfilling the corresponding subject-area general education requirements of the CSU campus granting the baccalaureate degree—without regard to differences that may exist in the configuration of the two programs or in the content of the subject area.

b. Students seeking to transfer under the provisions of this section shall be responsible for requesting verification that lower-division general education program or subject-area requirements have been met. Upon the request of a currently or formerly enrolled student, the CSU campus from which the student seeks to transfer shall determine the extent to which that student has satisfactorily completed the lower-division general education requirements in each
subject area, and shall provide official documentation of such completion.

c. For the purposes of this section, completion of lower-division general education subject-area requirements is equivalent to qualification for subject-area certification, as defined above.

d. Transfer students admitted with documentation of completion of one or more general education subject areas at another CSU campus may not be held to any additional lower-division general education requirements in that subject area by the campus awarding the degree.

5.6.4 Reciprocity Limitations
The provisions of Article 5.6 do not exempt students from unmet lower-division graduation requirements of the CSU campus awarding the degree or from lower-division courses required by individual baccalaureate majors at the CSU campus awarding the degree.

Article 6 Implementation and Governance

6.1 General Education Advisory Committee
A systemwide Chancellor’s General Education Advisory Committee is hereby established. While it is important that the membership of this committee be broadly based, it shall in largest part be drawn from the instructional faculty of the California State University.

At minimum, the membership shall also include Chancellor’s Office staff, one California Community College instructional faculty member, one CSU campus academic affairs administrator, and one articulation officer from the CSU system and one from the California Community College system. Each member of the committee shall have an equal vote.

The chancellor or the executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer may from time to time request that the committee address and provide advice on other issues related to the development and well-being of California State University General Education Breadth policy and programs.

The responsibilities of this committee shall be as follows:

a. To review and propose any necessary revisions in the objectives, requirements, and implementation of CSU General Education Breadth policy to ensure high-quality general education.
5.3.4 STEM Students who are eligible to use GE Breadth for STEM Majors

Students earning certain Associate Degrees for Transfer in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics are eligible to complete GE Breadth for STEM Majors by completing the following:

- All courses in Areas A, B, and E; and
- Two courses in Area C and two courses in Area D of the GE Breadth curriculum

One remaining lower-division general education course in Area C and one remaining lower-division general education course in Area D will be completed after transfer. This general education plan will allow STEM students to concentrate on the required lower division math and science courses needed for success in the major. These deferred lower division general education courses must be replaced in coursework before transfer with calculus and/or major science courses required by the major.

Students are eligible to complete the GE Breadth for STEM Majors option only if it would be impossible for them to complete both major/major preparation coursework and either IGETC and/or the CSU GE Breadth plan within 60 units prior to transfer. This option will apply only for majors in which the TMC explicitly indicates the availability of the option.

The CSU Office of the Chancellor, Division of Academic Affairs will maintain and publish a list of the Associate Degrees for Transfer which allow GE Breadth for STEM Majors, and the specific courses that replace the two deferred lower division general education courses.