
WHAT ARE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS?

Part of earning a college degree is getting a well-rounded education.

Most colleges require all degree-seeking students to take a set of courses called general education requirements that range across a broad spectrum of academic disciplines. The General Education core at MxCC offers students a comprehensive and vibrant curriculum which builds the foundation for lifelong learning. To that end, our course offerings provide students rich learning experiences meant to develop their abilities to think critically, communicate clearly — orally and in writing — use quantitative and scientific reasoning practically, understand and navigate information and use it effectively, and value others through an appreciation of human differences. General Education at Middlesex prepares students for their shared responsibilities as global citizens and to thrive in and contribute to an increasingly information dependent society.

The requirements for an academic program or “major” will include some general education courses. It is recommended that new students who have never attended college before begin with Gen Ed courses. These courses are more likely to satisfy degree requirements and transfer to other schools. Some courses are noted as “gateway” courses meaning that they are pre-requisites for other courses. MxCC’s English 101 is a key “gateway” course.

As of the Fall 2016 semester, these Gen Ed Requirements align with eleven Common Core Competencies adopted by the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities System. The new General Education Core is part of a Transfer Articulation Program (TAP) designed to ensure seamless transfer from a Connecticut Community College to a Connecticut State University or Charter Oak State College. These courses also transfer to most public and private universities outside the CSCU system.

The Eleven General Education Core Competencies are:

- Aesthetic Dimensions of Humankind
- Continuing Learning/Information Literacy
- Critical Analysis & Logical Thinking
- Ethical Dimensions of Humankind
- Historical Knowledge
- Oral Communication in English
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Scientific Knowledge & Understanding
- Scientific Reasoning
- Social Phenomena
- Written Communication in English

If you are also considering transferring to a college or university outside the CSCU system, including the University of Connecticut, their core competencies may not exactly mirror the general education requirements of the CSCU system schools. We urge all transferring students to meet with an advisor and research exactly what core courses are needed for efficient course transfer.

More information can be found here: www.ct.edu/transfer