FAQ on the Revisions to EO 1100 Revised August 23, 2017
CSU General Education Breadth

Implications for the California Community Colleges

The following list of commonly raised questions and Chancellor's Office responses is provided with the release of Executive Order 1100 Revised August 23, 2017 *CSU General Education Breadth Requirements*. This document is organized according to the EO structure, to assist in cross-referencing and highlights issues that may be of particular interest to California Community Colleges (CCC). A summary of revisions made to the EO that are relevant to transfer and articulation, appears at the end of this document. All requirements refer exclusively to baccalaureate-level learning.

Article 1. Applicability

1. When do these changes take effect?

The policy is effective fall 2018 and applies to students enrolling in fall 2018 and subsequent terms who: (1) have not previously been enrolled continuously at a campus of the CSU or CCC and (2) who have not satisfied lower-division general education requirements according to the provisions of Title 5 Sections 40405.2 or 40405.3. Students subject to earlier catalog years may elect to change their catalog year and be subject to the new GE requirements as well as current major degree program requirements and campus graduation requirements.

2. Can the CSU delay implementation until fall 2019 to give more time for the required curricular changes?

It would be difficult to justify delaying the benefits afforded by these policy changes, which increase opportunities for student success and facilitate efficient degree completion. Student-supportive policy changes include:

- Intermediate Algebra is no longer required as the uniform prerequisite for all courses in CSU General Education Breadth (GE) Area B4 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning.
- Approved GE Area B4 courses may now include non-algebra intensive courses such as game theory, statistics pathways, statistics for majors, computer science and personal finance, for example.
- To facilitate efficient degree completion systemwide, 48 semester units[1] is set as both the minimum and maximum for total GE units. Stand-alone one-unit GE B3 laboratory courses may increase the maximum to 49 units. (See question #8).
    - For the CCC this means 39 lower-division semester units, with 40 allowed for the inclusion of stand-alone one-unit GE B3 laboratory courses or 4 semester unit combinations of B3 included in a B1 or B2 course. See Article 4, Area B of EO 1100 for a full explanation of this process.

[1] One semester unit is equivalent to 1.5 quarter units.

Article 2. Fulfilling CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

3. What are the "Golden Four" GE courses?

Courses in GE Subareas A1, (oral communication in the English language), A2 (written communication in the English language), A3 (critical thinking) and B4 (mathematics/quantitative reasoning) are sometimes referred to as the "Golden Four" or "Basic Skills" courses. They are required for transfer admission to the CSU, and each of the four courses must be passed with a minimum grade of C-, per Title 5 Section 40803.

4. If the Golden Four require a minimum C- grade to satisfy CSU GE requirements, can students take those courses for Pass/No Pass?

GE policy does not prohibit students from satisfying the Golden Four requirements with Pass grades as long as the "P" represents a letter grade of C- or better. However, we recommend that students take these courses for a letter grade as some impacted majors and campuses may require letter grades in all required courses as a function of determining admission.

Article 3. Premises of CSU General Education Breadth

5. Can a CSU campus refuse to accept a GE course from another CSU (or from a CCC or other regionally accredited institution) if the course was taught online?

No, course modality is not to be considered when evaluating courses for transfer. GE requirements may be satisfied through courses taught in all modalities (e.g., face-to-face, hybrid, or completely online).

Article 4. Subject Area Distribution

6. What are the changes within Areas A-E?

Summary of changes by Area

- **Area A:** No substantive changes. There continues to be no prohibition against teaching courses in Subarea A1 Oral Communication in any modality. (See 3.3 of EO 1100)

- **Area B:** Two changes were made within Area B.
    - The intermediate algebra prerequisite was dropped as a required uniform prerequisite for all Subarea B4 courses. Traditional mathematics courses, like College Algebra and Calculus, will continue to have prerequisites. The change will allow for additional types of courses to be proposed for CSU GE Breadth certification review including, computer science, game theory, and personal finance, for example (see question #7 below). ***Further information regarding Subarea B4 will be distributed this fall.***
    - The revised policy allows for an additional unit of GE, if needed, in Subarea B3 (see question #8 below). It is expected that campuses could offer the laboratory experience within:
        - a 3 semester (4 quarter) unit lecture course;
        - a lecture plus laboratory course of 4 semester (6 quarter) units; or
        - a standalone laboratory course of 1 semester (2 quarter) units.

In the latter two cases, the total number of GE semester units shall not exceed 40 semester units.

- **Area C:** No changes.

- **Area D:** Provides clarification that courses shall be taken in "2 different disciplines." This could include a combination, for example, of a course in criminal justice and a second in political science. The deciding factor is not what departments house these courses but rather the academic discipline under which the course is taught.

- **Area E:** Allows for content in student success strategies or information literacy in Area E courses and removes courses in personal finance. ***Personal finance courses that are currently approved for Area E will have their GE status removed effective fall 2018. You may resubmit revised personal finance courses for Subarea B4 consideration (see question #7 below) during the 2017-2018 CSU GE Breadth/IGETC review period.*** The overall requirement remains that courses in Area E focus on students as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings, as does the prohibition against courses that focus solely on skill development.

7. Can courses that meet the requirements of CSU GE Subarea B4 have a prerequisite?

Yes, courses in this Subarea shall include a prerequisite reflective only of skills and knowledge required in the course.

Courses in Subarea B4 shall allow students to demonstrate the abilities to reason quantitatively, practice computational skills, and explain and apply mathematical or quantitative reasoning concepts to solve problems. In practice, it will be important for students to be advised to take a Subarea B4 course that is appropriate for their major. For some majors, this may require a mathematics class (such as calculus), that may have a mathematics prerequisite.

Courses meeting the GE mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirement may include traditional mathematics (e.g., algebra, trigonometry and calculus) as well as statistics. Additionally, GE math/quantitative reasoning options now may include personal finance, statistics for specific majors, game theory or computer science, which may not be exclusively algebra based. The change allows students more flexibility in completing their bachelor's degrees, and more opportunities to apply mathematical and quantitative reasoning to the world around them.

This fall we will provide further detail on the CSU GE Breadth review of courses.

8. Can a CCC campus have 40 lower-division units of GE if we require a 4 semester-unit lecture-and-laboratory course? Can we require 40 lower-division semester units if we require a 3 semester-unit B1 or B2 science lecture course and a related stand-alone one-unit laboratory course?

Yes, it is expected that campuses could offer the laboratory experience within:

- a 3 semester (or equivalent quarter) unit lecture course;
- a lecture plus laboratory course of 4 semester (or equivalent quarter) units; or
- a standalone laboratory course of 1 semester (or equivalent quarter) units.

In the latter two cases, the total number of GE lower-division semester (or equivalent quarter) units shall not exceed 40 semester (or equivalent quarter) units. See Article 4, Area B of EO 1100 for a full explanation.

Article 5. Transfer and Articulation

9. What is an "eligible institution" for articulation?

"Eligible" means any institution accredited by a recognized U.S. Department of Education regional accrediting agency or any international higher education institution legally authorized to deliver postsecondary instruction in their country is eligible for course articulation with CSU campuses.

10. Can CSU and CCC campuses articulate GE courses with institutions other than CCCs?

Yes. Article 5 "Transfer and Articulation" in the executive order refers to the annual CSU GE Breadth and Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) review process that is shared among the CCC, CSU and University of California systems. CSU and CCC campuses may continue to articulate courses with all eligible institutions in the same manner they do now. This includes the current practice of "passing-along" general education courses that were completed with a passing grade at a:

a) CSU before enrolling in a CCC; or
b) UC campus or other regionally accredited college or university. In these two instances, the course shall be reviewed by the CCC articulation office to determine if the course is comparable to current CSU GE Breadth/IGETC standards.

11. Can students transferring to the CSU with an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) be required to take additional lower-division GE courses?

No, a student who transfers to the CSU with a CCC Associate of Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) is fully certified for 39-40 units of lower-division CSU GE and cannot be held to additional lower-division GE requirements.

12. What is "CSU GE Breadth for STEM" within ADTs?

To accommodate the high number of lower-division major preparation courses required in some STEM majors, students pursuing certain ADTs may be eligible to take GE Breadth for STEM. This allows them to defer taking two lower-division GE courses (one in Area C and one in Area D) until after transfer. See EO 1100 Article 5.3.5 for details.

13. What will be the impact on the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) now that Subarea B4 has been revised?

All TMCs will need to undergo a review to ensure that the mathematics/quantitative reasoning course that is recommended for the TMC continues to be appropriate under the revised policy.

This fall we will provide details on the review of TMC as a result of the change in Subarea B4.

14. Which exams may be used for GE course certification?

Satisfactory scores on external examinations (like Advanced Placement) may be used to award GE credit and to certify satisfaction of GE Subareas. Coded memo ASA-2017-13 provides the current list of GE units to be awarded for specified examination scores. The list is updated on an annual basis.

Article 6. Implementation and Governance

This Article relates only to the CSU.

Summary of Changes* to EO 1100 Relevant to Articulation and Transfer

Section	Revision
2.1	Changes the term "CSU GE pathways" to "CSU GE patterns."
2.2.1	Sets the required semester units for GE Breadth at 48 as both a minimum and maximum while allowing 49 semester units to reflect practice of requiring a 4 semester unit lecture/lab course or a 1 semester-unit lab course on some campuses. Required laboratory units have often not appeared in GE unit totals.
2.2.2	Establishes minimum C- grade requirements for oral communication, written communication, critical thinking and mathematics/quantitative reasoning, per Title 5.
3.2	Clarifies that GE courses may be taught in all modalities (e.g., face-to-face, online, and hybrid) formats.
3.3	Removes the long list of LEAP information, replaced with a link.
(formerly 3.4 in previous EO version)	Removes the section on entry-level skills and remediation, as this policy exclusively addresses general education and not admission or remediation requirements.
4	Removes the Intermediate Algebra prerequisite from math/quantitative reasoning Subarea B4 and adds language describing this requirement. Sample course titles are given as examples of the expanded vision for satisfying the mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirement.
4	Specifies additional appropriate course content for Area E (e.g., information literacy and student success strategies), while personal finance is removed from this Area.
5.3.4	Adds information regarding GE for students who earn ADTs.

***This chart does not reflect all modifications. For example, stylistic changes, numbering changes and reorganization of elements do not appear in this chart.**

Need further assistance?

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