



# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS GUIDELINES

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|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Section 2.3</b>             | Academic Programs  |                          |  |
| <b>Title:</b>                  | General Education Implementation Guidelines  |                          |  |
| <b>Number (Current Format)</b> | <b>Number (Prior Format)</b>   | <b>Date Last Revised</b> |  |
| 2.3.7.B                        | III.A, 8.1   | 09/2022                  |  |
| <b>Reference:</b>              | <a href="#">BOR Policy 2.3.7</a> – Undergraduate General Education Requirements<br><a href="#">AAC Guideline 2.3.7.A</a> – General Education Curriculum Requirements |                          |  |
| <b>Related Form(s):</b>        |  |                          |  |

## 1. Purpose

General education provides students with a foundational knowledge base and a capacity for lifelong learning. The System General Education (SGR) requirements seek to prepare students with the skills to communicate effectively, problem solve, analyze, locate and gather information, and think critically and logically. The curriculum is designed to:

- 1.1. Empower students to be conscientious citizens;
- 1.2. Train students to understand how to think, not what to think;
- 1.3. Expose students to the breadth of ideas, cultures, and values that explain our world;
- 1.4. Equip students for working together and thinking critically in ways that contribute to solving problems;
- 1.5. Provide a foundation for, and the enhancement of, the knowledge and skills necessary for their chosen pathway after degree completion; and
- 1.6. Foster respect for the ideas, cultures and values of others.

## 2. System General Education Committee

2.1. As outlined in BOR Policy 2.3.7, the System General Education Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Academic Affairs Council (AAC) related to General Education student learning outcomes, curriculum, policy, guidelines and processes for ensuring faculty oversight of the General Education curriculum.

2.2. The committee will review institutional requests for new courses to be approved to meet the System General Education goals and make a recommendation to AAC prior to advancing to the Board of Regents for approval.

2.2.1. To ensure clearly defined educational pathways for students a “limited” set of General Education courses will be maintained in AAC guidelines, and the committee will make every attempt to maintain a “limited” set of courses to meet the six General Education goals outlined in BOR Policy 2.3.7.

**2.2.2.** To meet the learning outcomes affiliated with each of the six General Education goals, courses should be designed to foster student intellectual development in the given content area.

**2.2.2.1.** Discipline-specific courses designed to meet unique goals or learning outcomes will be excluded from the list of approved courses.

**2.2.2.2.** Specialized courses with a narrow lens in a given subject area should be limited, especially when additional foundational knowledge is necessary for a student to gain an understanding of the content area.

**2.2.3.** To accomplish the goal of maintaining a limited set of courses, a zero-sum approach will be used to manage the addition of new courses seeking final approval by the Board of Regents under the following framework:

**2.2.3.1.** Institutions must request the removal of an existing General Education course from the approved matrix to coincide with the addition of a new course for any given goal area.

**2.2.3.2.** When a common course is approved for inclusion by one Regental institution, the course will be included on the matrix for all institutions currently offering the course. In these instances, non-originating institutions will be waived from the requirement to remove a course under the zero-sum approach.

**2.2.3.3.** The System Vice President for Academic Affairs may waive the zero-sum requirement for the addition or removal of a general education course in limited circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

**2.2.4.** Institutions must advance General Education curriculum requests to the System General Education Committee, and the committee will make recommendations to AAC for consideration at their next available meeting. AAC General Education curriculum recommendations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration during their March meeting.

### **3. Course Restrictions and Transfer**

**3.1.** The System General Education Requirements outlined in BOR Policy 2.3.7 will be effective for students entering in Fall 2017.

**3.1.1.** Only 100/200 level courses shall be included on the approved course list outlined in AAC Administrative Guidelines.

**3.1.2.** For transfer equivalency purposes, exceptions based on student background may be made utilizing the established individual university academic appeal process.

**3.1.3.** Honors courses equivalent to identified System general education courses may be approved but must meet the System requirements and align with the established learning outcomes.

**3.2.** University catalogs will print the System requirements in the approved format.

**3.3.** General Education Transfer

**3.3.1.** System General Education Requirements successfully completed at the sending South Dakota Regental institution will be accepted towards meeting these requirements

at the receiving South Dakota Regental institution.

**3.3.2.** Transfer credit from an institution external to the Regental system that has been transcribed by one institution, will be accepted towards meeting requirements at all campuses.

**3.4.**All System General Education Requirements shall be completed within the first 90<sup>1</sup> hours or pre-registration holds will be applied to students.

**3.5.** Pre-General Education Courses in English and Mathematics

**3.5.1.** Pre-general education courses include remedial mathematics and English courses. Students who are placed into remedial courses must successfully complete the remedial course(s) concurrently when allowed, or prior to enrolling in initial General Education courses in English composition and mathematics.

**3.5.2.** Students placed in pre-general education courses must enroll in and successfully complete the courses within the first 30 credit hours attempted.

**3.5.3.** The Vice President for Academic Affairs may grant an exception.

**3.6.** Transfer Student Pre-General Education Courses in English & Mathematics

**3.6.1.** Students transferring from non-Regental institutions placed into pre-general education courses must enroll in pre-general education courses during the first 30 attempted Regental credit hours. These students may enroll in other courses concurrently with the pre-general education courses.

**3.6.2.** The Vice President for Academic Affairs may grant an exception.

**SOURCE:**

AAC November 2005; August 2017 (Clerical); AAC May 2018; October 2018 (Clerical); AAC May 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Blocks registration until student meets with advisor; this advisor is expected to assure registration in remaining general education coursework.