



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS GUIDELINES

Section 2.3	Academic Programs	
Title:	General Education Curriculum Requirements	
Number (Current Format)	Number (Prior Format)	Date Last Revised
2.3.7.A	III.D, 8.3	04/2026
Reference:	BOR Policy 2.3.7 – Undergraduate General Education Requirements AAC Guideline 2.2.1.1.A –Mathematics Placement Guidelines AAC Guideline 2.2.1.1.B – English Placement Guidelines	
Related Form(s):		

I. Purpose

- A. Board of Regents Policy 2.3.7 – Undergraduate General Education Requirements specifies that the General Education component of all associates and bachelor’s degree programs shall consist of a set of System General Education Requirements. Section D of the policy identifies the general goals for the system, and Academic Affairs Guidelines are intended to specify the skills to be developed in each course that satisfies the requirement through a common set of learning outcomes, and the list of approved courses. Students may only select general education courses from the approved list included in these guidelines. These requirements are effective for students entering Fall 2017.
- B. Policy further establishes that the courses permitted to meet System General Education Requirements are approved by the Board of Regents each year during the March meeting. The list of courses approved to meet each of the established system goals are maintained within these guidelines. Institutions are expected to retain a “limited” list of courses to meet system graduation requirements, which may not increase without formal approval by the Board of Regents.

II. System General Education Requirements:

- A. **GOAL #1:** *Students will write effectively and responsibly and will understand and interpret the written expression of others.*

1. *Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:*
 - a. *Write using standard American English, including correct punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure,*
 - b. *Write logically,*

- c. *Write persuasively, with a variety of rhetorical strategies (e.g., expository, argumentative, descriptive), and*
- d. *Incorporate formal research and documentation into their writing, including research obtained through modern, technology-based research tools.*

Each course meeting this goal must include the following student learning outcomes: a, b, c, and d.

2. Approved Courses

Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
ANTH/SOC	211	Social Science Writing	3						x
CJUS	202	Writing & Research in Criminal Justice	3						x
ENGL	101	Composition I	3	x	x	x	X	x	x
ENGL	201	Composition II	3	x	x	x	X	x	x
ENGL	205	Business Writing	3						x
ENGL	284	Introduction to Criticism	3	x	x	x		x	x
ENGL	277	Tech Writing in Engineering	3					x	
ENGL	279	Communications in the STEM Workplace	3				x		
ENGL	289	STEM Communication for Technical and Public Audiences	3				x		
ENGL	283	Introduction to Creative Writing	3	x	x	x		x	x
POLS	202	Writing & Research in Political Science	3						x
UHON	110	Honors English	3						x
UHON	211	Honors Interdisciplinary Civilizations II	3						x

*Currently: Engineering and sciences students at SDSM&T take this six credit sequence in the sophomore and junior years. Both courses develop written and speech communications in an integrated fashion in the context of the major. Students must finish the entire sequence.

NOTE: Student enrollment in the initial English course is determined by the Academic Affairs English Placement Guidelines ([AAC Guideline 2.2.1.1.B](#)).

B. GOAL #2: *Students will communicate effectively and responsibly through listening and speaking.*

1. Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:

- a. *Demonstrate the ability to speak thoughtfully, clearly, and effectively in a variety of contexts.*
- b. *Demonstrate active listening skills in a variety of contexts.*

*Each course meeting this goal must include the following student learning outcomes:
a and b*

2. Approved Courses

Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
CMST	101	Foundations of Communication	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
CMST	215	Public Speaking	3	x	x	x		x	x
CMST	222	Argumentation and Debate	3	x	x	x		x	x
ENGL	279	Communications in the STEM Workplace	3				x		
ENGL	289	STEM Communications for Technical and Public Audiences	3				x		
UHON	101	Honors Speech Communication	3						x

C. GOAL #3: *Students will understand the organization, potential, and variability of the human community through study of the social sciences.*

1. Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:

- a. Identify and explain basic concepts, terminology, theories, and systems of inquiry of the selected social science disciplines.*
- b. Apply selected social science concepts and theories to contemporary or historical issues from different behavioral, cultural, institutional, temporal, or spatial contexts.*
- c. Analyze the extent and impact of variation among individuals, cultures, or societies in contemporary or historical contexts using social science methods and concepts.*

*Each course meeting this goal must include the following student learning outcomes:
a, b, and c.*

- 2. Civics Requirement: One course must be completed to fulfill the civics requirement. Courses that satisfy this requirement are marked with [CIV].*
- 3. Prefix Requirement: Courses must be from different disciplines (different prefixes/subjects).*
- 4. SGR 3 Approved Courses*

Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
ABS	203	Global Food Systems	3					x	
AIS/HIST	257	American Indian History & Culture	3	x					
ANTH	210	Cultural Anthropology	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ANTH	220	Physical Anthropology	3						x
ANTH	230	Intro to Archaeology	3						x
CJUS	201	Intro to Criminal Justice	3			x		x	x
CIV [CIV]	100	American Civics	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
CMST	201	Interpersonal Communication	3	x	x	x		x	x
ECON	201	Principles of Microeconomics	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ECON	202	Principles of Macroeconomics	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
GEOG	101	Intro to Geography	3	x	x		x	x	
GEOG	200	Intro to Human Geography	3		x	x	x	x	
GEOG	210	World Regional Geography	3	x		x		x	x
GEOG	212	Geography of North America	3			x	x	x	
GEOG	219	Geography of South Dakota	3					x	
GLST	201	Intro to Global Studies	3					x	
HDFS	141	Individual and the Family	3					x	
HDFS/EPSY	210	Lifespan Development	3		x			x	x
HIST [CIV]	151	US History I	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
HIST [CIV]	152	US History II	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
HIST	256	World History	3		x	x			
INED/AIS/NATV	211	South Dakota American Indian Culture and Education	3		x			x	x
INFO/PHIL	102	Data Ethics	3					x	
NATV	110	The Native Studies Discipline	3						x
POLS [CIV]	100	American Government	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
POLS	102	American Political Issues	3				x	x	
POLS	141	Governments of the World	3	x				x	x
POLS	165	Political Ideologies	3				x	s	
POLS	102	American Political Issues	3				x	x	
POLS [CIV]	210	State & Local Government	3	x	x	x		x	x
POLS	250	Introduction to International Relations	3	x		x	x		x
POLS	253	Current World Issues	3					x	
PSYC	101	General Psychology	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
PSYC	102	Psychology of Personal Growth	3				x		

Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
REL	237	Religion in American Culture	3					x	
SOC	100	Introduction to Sociology	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
SOC	150	Social Problems	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
SOC	151	Social Issues in Sustainability	3	x					
SOC	240	Sociology of Rural America	3		x			x	
SOC	250	Courtship & Marriage	3			x	x	x	x
SOC	285	Society and Technology	3		x		x		
SUST/GEOG	111	Sustainable Society	3					x	x
UHON	111	Ideas in History	3						x
UHON	210	Interdisciplinary Civilizations I	3						x
WMST	247	Introduction to Women, Gender & Sexuality	3					x	x

D. GOAL #4: *Students will understand the variability and complexity of the human experience through study of the arts and humanities*

1. *Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will*
 - a. *Demonstrate knowledge of the variability of values, beliefs, practices or ideas embodied in the human experience, and*
 - b. *Demonstrate basic understanding of concepts of the selected discipline within the arts and humanities*

And at least one of the following:

- c. *Demonstrate ability to express creative, aesthetic, formal or stylistic elements of the disciplines.*
- d. *Demonstrate foundational competency in reading, writing, and speaking a non-English language.*
- e. *Identify and explain cultural contributions from the perspective of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities.*

Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:

- *Required: a and b*
- *At least one of the following: c, d, or e.*

2. *Prefix/Course Requirement: Courses must be from different disciplines (different prefixes/subject codes) except for foreign language. Foreign languages may have two sections of the same prefix/subject.*

3. *Approved Courses:*

Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
AIS	110	Dakota Language I	3			x			
AIS	112	Dakota Language II	3			x			
ARAB	101	Introductory Arabic I	4					x	x
ARAB	102	Introductory Arabic II	4					x	x
ARCH	241	Construction History	3					x	
ART	101	Introduction to Fine Arts	3						x
ART	111	Drawing I	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ART	112	Drawing II	3	x		x		x	x
ART/DSGN	121	Design I 2D	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ART	123	Three Dimensional Design	3	x	x	x		x	x
ARTH	100	Art Appreciation	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ARTH	121	Intro to the Visual Arts	3	x					
ARTH/HIST	211	History of World Art I	3	x	x	x		x	x
ARTH/HIST	212	History of World Art II	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ARTH/AIS/NATV	251	American Indian Art History	3	x					x
CHIN	101	Introductory Chinese I	4		x	x		x	x
CHIN	102	Introductory Chinese II	4		x	x		x	x
DCOM/HUM	101	American Sign Language I	3	x					x
DCOM	102	American Sign Language II	3						x
ENGL	115	American Indian Oral Literature	3	x					
ENGL	210	Introduction to Literature	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ENGL	211	Early World Literature	3	x	x			x	
ENGL	212	Modern World Literature	3	x	x		x	x	x
ENGL	213	Backgrounds to Literature	3			x			
ENGL	214	American Indian Literature	3	x					x
ENGL	215	Literature in Global Contexts	3			x			
ENGL	221	British Literature to 1800	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ENGL	222	British Literature Since 1800	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ENGL	230	Literature for Younger Readers	3			x			
ENGL	240	Juvenile Literature	3					x	
ENGL	241	American Literature to 1865	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ENGL	242	American Literature Since 1865	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
ENGL/WMST	248	Women in Literature	3	x				x	

ENGL	249	Literature of Diverse Cultures	3					x	
ENGL	250	Science Fiction	3				x	x	
Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
ENGL	268	Literature	3		x			x	
FREN	101	Introductory French I	4	x		x	x	x	x
FREN	102	Introductory French II	4	x		x	x	x	x
FREN	201	Intermediate French I	4	x		x		x	x
FREN	202	Intermediate French II	4	x		x		x	x
GER/GLAN	101	Introductory German I	4	x		x	x	x	x
GER/GLAN	102	Introductory German II	4	x		x	x	x	x
GER/GLAN	201	Intermediate German I	3	x		x		x	x
GER/GLAN	202	Intermediate German II	3	x		x		x	x
GREE	101	Elementary Greek	4						x
GREE	102	Advanced Elementary Greek	4						x
HIST	111	World Civilization I	3		x	x		x	x
HIST	112	World Civilization II	3		x	x		x	x
HIST	121	Western Civilization I	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
HIST	122	Western Civilization II	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
HUM	100	Intro to Humanities	3	x			x		x
HUM	200	Connections: Humanities/Tech	3				x		
HUM	250	Environmental Ethics and STEM	3				x		
LAKL/AIS	101	Introductory Lakota I	4	x		x		x	x
LAKL/AIS	102	Introductory Lakota II	4	x				x	x
LAKL/AIS	201	Intermediate Lakota I	3	x				x	x
LAKL/AIS	202	Intermediate Lakota II	3	x				x	x
LATI	101	Elementary Latin	4			x		x	x
LATI	102	Advanced Elementary Latin	4					X	x
MCOM	151	Intro to Mass Communications	3	x				x	x
MCOM	160	Introduction to Film	3					x	
MFL	101	Intro to Foreign Lang & Culture I	4			x		x	x
MFL	102	Intro to Foreign Lang & Culture II	4			x		x	x
MFL	134	Foreign Cultures	3					x	
MUS	100	Music Appreciation	3	x	x	x		x	x
MUS	117	Music in Performance I (University Choir)	1				x		x
MUS	130	Music Lit and History I	2					x	
MUS	131	Music Lit and History II	3					x	
MUS	200	American Music	3	x					
MUS	201	History of Country Music	3					x	
MUS	203	Blues, Jazz and Rock	3					x	

MUS	205	History, Analysis and Appreciation of Rock and Roll	3			x			
MUS	240	Music Cultures of the World	3						x
Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
PHIL/CLHU	100	Intro to Philosophy	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL	200	Introduction to Logic	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL	215	Intro to Social/Political Philosophy	3					x	x
PHIL	220	Introduction to Ethics	3	x	x		x	x	x
PHIL	233	Philosophy and Literature	3				x		x
PHIL	240	Introduction to Ethics, Law, and Society	3						x
PHIL	242	Ethics, Law, and Literature	3						x
PHIL	270	Philosophy of Religion	3			x			
REL	213	Introduction to Religion	3					x	
REL	224	Old Testament	3					x	
REL	225	New Testament	3					x	x
REL/AIS	238	Native American Religions	3					x	
REL	250	World Religions	3				x	x	x
RUSS	101	Introductory Russian I	4	x	x	x		x	x
RUSS	102	Introductory Russian II	4	x	x	x		x	x
SPAN	101	Introductory Spanish I	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
SPAN	102	Introductory Spanish II	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
SPAN	201	Intermediate Spanish I	3	x	x	x		x	x
SPAN	202	Intermediate Spanish II	3	x	x	x		x	x
STS	201	Introduction to Science, Technology and Society	3				x		
THEA	100	Theatre Appreciation	3	x	x	x		x	x
THEA	131	Introduction to Acting	3	x	x	x		x	x
THEA	200	Theatre History	3		x				
THEA	201	Film Appreciation	3		x				x
THEA	231	Acting I	3						x
THEA	270	History of World Cinema	3	x					

E. GOAL #5: *Students will understand and apply fundamental mathematical processes and reasoning.*

1. *Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:*

a. *Use mathematical symbols and mathematical structure to model and solve real world problems,*

- b. *Demonstrate appropriate communication skills related to mathematical terms and concepts.*

Each course meeting this goal must include the following student learning outcomes: a, and b.

2. *Approved Courses*

Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
MATH	103/103L	Mathematical Reasoning	4	x	x	x		x	x
MATH	104	Finite Math	4	x	x	x			x
MATH	114	College Algebra	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
MATH	115	Precalculus	5	x	x	x	x	x	x
MATH	120	Trigonometry	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
MATH	121	Survey of Calculus	4	x	x	x		x	x
MATH	123	Calculus	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
MATH	125	Calculus II	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
MATH	201	Intro to Discrete Math	3		x				
MATH	216	Discrete Structures	3			x			x
MATH	225	Calculus III	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
MATH/STAT	281	Statistics	3	x	x	x	x	x	x

NOTE: Student enrollment in the initial Mathematics course is determined by the Academic Affairs Mathematics Placement Guidelines ([AAC Guideline 2.2.1.1.A](#)).

F. GOAL #6: *Students will understand the fundamental principles of the natural sciences and apply scientific methods of inquiry to investigate the natural world.*

1. *Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:*

- a. *Explain the nature of science including how scientific explanation are formulated, tested, and modified or validated.*
- b. *Distinguish between scientific and non-scientific evidence and explanations, and use scientific evidence to construct arguments related to contemporary issues.*
- c. *Apply basic observational, quantitative, or technological methods to gather and analyze data and generate evidence-based conclusions in a laboratory setting.*
- d. *Understand and apply foundational knowledge and discipline-specific concepts to address issues, solve problems, or predict natural phenomena.*

Each course meeting this goal must include the following student learning outcomes: a, b, c and d

2. *Approved Courses*

Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
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ASC	121/121L	Science: The Core of Discovery I	4		x				
BIOL	101/101L	Biology Survey I and Lab	3-4	x	x	x		x	x
BIOL	103/103L	Biology Survey II and Lab	3-4	x	x	x		x	x
BIOL	104/104L	Foundations of Biology for Educators	2						x
Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
BIOL	106/106L	Human Health and Biology	3		x	x			
BIOL	151/151L	General Biology I and Lab	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
BIOL	153/153L	General Biology II and Lab	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
BIOL	165/165L	General Zoology/Lab	4		x				
BIOL/BOT	201/201L	General Botany/Lab	3-4		x			x	
BIOL	211/211L	Environmental Biology	3		x	x			
BIOL	235/235L	Introduction to Biotechnology	3			x		x	
CHEM	104/104L	Foundations of Chemistry for Educators	2						x
CHEM	106/106L	Chemistry Survey and Lab	4	x		x	x	x	x
CHEM	107/107L	Organic and Biochemistry Survey/Lab	4	x					x
CHEM	108/108L	Organic & Biochemistry/Lab	5			x		x	
CHEM	112/112L	General Chemistry I & Lab	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHEM	114/114L	General Chemistry II & Lab	4	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHEM	116/116L	Honors Principles of Chemistry	4						x
ESCI	101/101L	Dynamic Earth	4						x
ESCI	103/103L	Earth and Life Through Time	4						x
ESCI	104/104L	Foundations of Earth Science for Educators	2						x
GEOG	131/131L	Physical Geography Weather/Climate	4		x	x		x	
GEOG	132/132L	Physical Geography Natural Landscapes	4		x	x		x	
GEOL	101/101L	General Geology	3			x			
GEOL	201/201L	Physical Geology and Lab	4	x			x		
GEOL	203/203L	Historical Geology	4	x					
HSC	280/280L	Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology/Lab	5						x
ISCI	151/151L	Integrated Science I/Lab	4						x
ISCI	153/153L	Integrated Science II/Lab	4						x
MICR	231/231L	General Microbiology	4			x		x	
MTRO	101/101L	Meteorology/Meteorology Lab	4						x
PHGY/BIOL	220/220L	Human Anatomy/Physiology I	4			x			x
PHGY/BIOL	230/230L	Human Anatomy/Physiology II	4			x			x

PHYS	101/101L	Survey of Physics/Lab	3-4	x		x		x	
PHYS	104/104L	Foundations of Physics for Educators	2						x
PHYS	207/207L	Fundamentals of Physics I/Lab	4			x	x	x	
Prefix	Number	Title of Course	Credit Hours	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD
PHYS	209/209L	Fundamentals of Physics II/Lab	4			X	x	x	
PHYS	111/111L	Intro to Physics I and Lab	3-4	x	x	X	x	x	x
PHYS	113/113L	Intro to Physics II and Lab	3-4	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHYS	185/185L	Solar System Astronomy/Lab	3	x	x			x	x
PHYS	187/187L	Stars, Galaxies, and Cosmology/Lab	3		x			x	x
PHYS	211/211L	University Physics I & Lab	4-5	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHYS	213/213L	University Physics II & Lab	4-5	x	x	x	x	x	x
PS	213/213L	Soils and Lab	3					x	
PS	243	Principals of Geology	3					x	
RANG	205/L	Introduction to Range Management	3					x	
SUST	113/113L	Sustainable Environment/Lab	3-4						x

SOURCE:

AAC August 2016; March 2017 (Clerical); AAC November 2017; December 2017 (Clerical); AAC August 2018; October 2018 (Clerical); December 2018 (Clerical); BOR May 2019; AAC May 2019;

February 2020 (Clerical); BOR May 2020; AAC March 2022; AAC May 2022; AAC July 2022; September 2022 (Clerical); BOR April 2024; AAC June 2025.