

# GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

General Education provides a foundation for study across many areas of knowledge. All students are required to complete the General Education program as an essential component of the baccalaureate degree.

## The Purpose of General Education

General education at MSU Billings is designed to advance students as participants in the ongoing accumulation of human knowledge and understanding. General education courses promote the development of respect for diversity, along with skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and communication necessary for students to be productive and responsible members of their communities.

## General Education Minimum Satisfactory Course Grade

By action of the University's Academic Senate, the minimum satisfactory grade students must earn in a General Education course is "C-" or better. However, students must earn an overall GPA of 2.0 in the General Education core. (11/10/05 memo #473 p. 1770)

## General Education Programmatic Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the General Education Program at MSUB, students will successfully be able to:

| Respect Diversity                                                           | Problem Solve                                                                                          | Think Critically                                         | Communicate Effectively                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Express the impact of inequity on the human experience                   | 3. Use statistical or mathematical methods to solve problems                                           | 6. Locate and evaluate information from multiple sources | 8. Apply communication strategies for specific purposes and audiences  |
| 2. Synthesize multiple perspectives in contemporary and historical contexts | 4. Use scientific methods to solve problems                                                            | 7. Synthesize evidence to construct logical arguments    | 9. Utilize interpersonal skills to collaborate toward a common purpose |
|                                                                             | 5. Use quantitative and qualitative information to provide solutions to social and/or ethical problems |                                                          |                                                                        |

## Categorization

Students will complete 31 credits of General Education, distributed in the following categories.

| Code                             | Title                                | Credits |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>I. Global Academic Skills</b> |                                      |         |
| A.                               | Mathematics                          | 3       |
| B.                               | English                              | 3       |
| C.                               | Communication & Information Literacy | 3       |
| <b>II. Natural Sciences</b>      |                                      |         |
| A.                               | Life Sciences                        | 3       |

|                                                           |                   |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| B.                                                        | Physical Sciences | 3         |
| *Lab taken with either Life Sciences or Physical Sciences |                   | 1         |
| <b>III. Social Sciences and History</b>                   |                   |           |
| A.                                                        | Social Sciences   | 3         |
| B.                                                        | History           | 3         |
| <b>IV. Cultural Diversity</b>                             |                   |           |
| <b>V. Arts and Humanities</b>                             |                   |           |
| A.                                                        | Fine Arts         | 3         |
| B.                                                        | Humanities        | 3         |
| <b>Total Minimum Credits</b>                              |                   | <b>31</b> |

## Category Descriptions

### Global Academic Skills

Global Academic Skills include assessing sources of information, reading, writing, and calculating.

### Natural Sciences

Natural science is devoted to discovering the principles that rule the physical universe.

### Social Sciences and History

Social sciences represent those disciplines that apply scientific methods to study the network of human relationships and organizations. History involves the interpretation of diverse sources to understand past societies and events.

### Cultural Diversity

Courses in the cultural diversity category facilitate understanding of and interaction between distinct human communities.

### Arts and Humanities

The expressive arts include visual, performing, and language-based activities. The humanities include the study of philosophy, literature, and art history.

## General Education Category Learning Objectives

1. **Global Academic Skills**
  - a. **Mathematics**
    - i. Demonstrate ability to solve problems with quantitative information using mathematical and/or statistical methods.
    - ii. Think critically, analytically and independently about mathematical situations.
    - iii. Communicate using mathematical terminology and symbols in support of an argument or solution method.
  - b. **English**
    - i. Exhibit competency in the use of formal writing conventions, including mechanics, syntax, style, cohesion, and organization.
    - ii. Select and apply effective writing strategies for specific purposes and audiences.
    - iii. Integrate primary and secondary source material in original work with appropriate documentation.
  - c. **Communication & Information Literacy**
    - i. Engage in research to gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources to express ideas.
    - ii. Access and use information ethically, with appropriate citation, in oral and written communication.
    - iii. Design audience-centered informative or persuasive messages.

## 2. Natural Sciences

## a. Life Science

- i. Demonstrate an understanding of living systems by describing their nature, organization, and evolution.
- ii. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and how it is used to increase our knowledge of living things.
- iii. Make logical connections between key concepts in the life sciences and describe the interaction between human lives and other living things in order to understand the ways the environment impacts humanity and how human actions affect the environment.

## b. Physical Science

- i. Demonstrate an understanding of the physical universe and planet earth, including its origin and physical processes.
- ii. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and how it is used to solve problems and increase our knowledge of the physical world.
- iii. Make logical connections between key concepts in the physical sciences and human life, including the interactions between the two and their impacts on one another.

## 3. Social Sciences and History

## a. Social Sciences

- i. Analyze historical and cultural significance in human behavior, ideas, and institutions.
- ii. Synthesize multiple perspectives to understand human behavior.
- iii. Contextualize information from multiple points in time and place to understand society.

## b. History

- i. Explain historical events and ideas in appropriate context.
- ii. Analyze and organize a variety of sources to construct historical knowledge.
- iii. Express a historical argument in written form.

## 4. Cultural Diversity

- a. Articulate an understanding of differences across ethnicities, genders, generations, and other groups of people.
- b. Analyze how cultural differences impact interactions in society.
- c. Describe effective methods to communicate across cultures.

## 5. Arts and Humanities

## a. Fine Arts

- i. Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse roles the fine arts play in human culture.
- ii. Identify and analyze artistic techniques used in aesthetic expression.
- iii. Demonstrate an appreciation of the ways in which the arts enrich life.

## b. Humanities

- i. Explain the interrelationship between the humanities and other disciplines.
- ii. Describe the ways in which the humanities influence culture and society.
- iii. Analyze issues surrounding life, death, ethics, and morality.

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| M 105    | Contemporary Mathematics       |
| M 114    | Extended Technical Mathematics |
| M 121    | College Algebra                |
| M 122    | College Trigonometry           |
| M 130    | Math for Elementary Teachers I |
| M 140    | College Math for Healthcare    |
| M 143    | Finite Mathematics             |
| M 161    | Survey of Calculus             |
| M 171    | Calculus I                     |
| STAT 141 | Intro to Statistical Concepts  |
| STAT 216 | Introduction to Statistics     |

## B. English

Select three credits from the following: 3

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| WRIT 101 | College Writing I          |
| WRIT 121 | Intro to Technical Writing |
| WRIT 122 | Intro to Business Writing  |

## C. Communication &amp; Information Literacy

Select three credits from the following: 3

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| BMIS 150 | Cyber Security & Electronic Co |
| COMX 111 | Intro to Public Speaking       |
| COMX 115 | Intro to Interpersonal Comm    |
| COMX 210 | Communication in Small Groups  |
| HONR 205 | Honors Inquiry and Research    |
| LSCI 125 | Research in the Info Age       |

## II. Natural Sciences

Regarding Natural Sciences, students are required to take one course from Life Sciences and one course from Physical Sciences. **At least one course must include a corresponding laboratory.**<sup>1</sup>

## A. Life Sciences

Select three credits from the following with a corresponding laboratory course if 3-4 not taken in Physical Sciences:

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| BIOB 101 | Discover Biology              |
| BIOB 102 | Discover Biology Lab          |
| BIOB 121 | Fund of Bio for Allied Health |
| BIOB 123 | Fund Bio: Nature of Nutrition |
| BIOB 160 | Principles of Living Systems  |
| BIOB 161 | Principles Living Systems Lab |

## B. Physical Sciences

Select three credits from the following with a corresponding laboratory course if 3-4 not taken in Life Sciences:

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| ASTR 110 | Introduction to Astronomy      |
| ASTR 111 | Introduction to Astronomy Lab  |
| CHMY 121 | Intro to General Chemistry     |
| CHMY 122 | Intro to Gen Chem Lab          |
| CHMY 141 | College Chemistry I            |
| CHMY 142 | College Chemistry I Lab        |
| GEO 101  | Intro to Physical Geology      |
| GEO 102  | Intro to Physical Geology Lab  |
| GPHY 262 | Spatial Sciences Tech and Appl |
| GPHY 263 | Spatial Sciences & Tech Lab    |
| PHSX 103 | Our Physical World             |
| PHSX 104 | Our Physical World Lab         |
| PHSX 205 | College Physics I              |

## General Education Courses

| Code | Title | Credits |
|------|-------|---------|
|------|-------|---------|

## I. Global Academic Skills

Regarding Global Academic Skills, students are required to take 1 course from Mathematics, 1 course from English, and 1 course from Communication & Information Literacy.

## A. Mathematics

Select three credits from the following: 3

|          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| PHSX 206 | College Physics I Lab |
|----------|-----------------------|

#### A and B. Integrated Sciences

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| SCIN 101 | Integrated Sciences I     |
| SCIN 102 | Integrated Sciences Lab I |
| SCIN 103 | Integrated Sciences II    |
| SCIN 104 | Integrated Science Lab II |

### III. Social Sciences and History

Regarding Social Sciences and History, students are required to take one course from Social Sciences and one course from History.

#### A. Social Sciences

Select three credits from the following: 3

|              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| BGEN 105A    | Introduction to Business     |
| or BGEN 105B | Introduction to Business     |
| COMX 106     | Comm in a Dynamic Workplace  |
| ECNS 201     | Principles of Microeconomics |
| ECNS 202     | Principles of Macroeconomics |
| EDU 105      | Education and Democracy      |
| HTH 110      | Personal Health and Wellness |
| PSCI 210     | Intro to American Government |
| PSCI 220     | Intro to Comparative Govt    |
| PSYX 100     | Intro to Psychology          |
| SOCI 101     | Introduction to Sociology    |
| SOCI 201     | Social Problems              |

#### B. History

Select three credits from the following: 3

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| HSTA 101 | American History I         |
| HSTA 102 | American History II        |
| HSTR 159 | World History to 1500 CE   |
| HSTR 160 | Modern World History       |
| PSCI 230 | Intro to International Rel |

### IV. Cultural Diversity

Regarding Cultural Diversity, students are required to take one course from the following: 3

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| ANTY 220 | Culture & Society              |
| ARTH 160 | Global Visual Culture          |
| COMX 212 | Intro to Intercultural Comm    |
| GPHY 121 | Human Geography                |
| HTH 270  | Global Health Issues           |
| LIT 230  | World Lit Survey               |
| MUSI 207 | World Music                    |
| NASX 105 | Intro Native American Studies  |
| NASX 205 | Native Americans in Contmp Soc |
| REHA 201 | Intro to Diversity in Counslng |
| RLST 170 | The Religious Quest            |
| SPNS 150 | The Hispanic Tradition         |
| WGSS 274 | Women, Culture & Society       |

### V. Arts and Humanities

Regarding Arts and Humanities, students are required to take one course from Fine Arts and one course from Humanities.

#### A. Fine Arts

Select three credits from the following: 3

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| ARTZ 105 | Visual Language-Drawing    |
| ARTZ 106 | Visual Language-2-D Fndtns |

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| ARTZ 108 | Visual Language-3-D Fndtns    |
| ARTZ 131 | Ceramics for Non-Majors       |
| CRWR 240 | Intro Creative Writing Wrkshp |
| FILM 160 | Introduction to World Cinema  |
| LIT 270  | Film & Lit                    |
| MUSI 101 | Enjoyment of Music            |
| MUSI 114 | Band: MSUB Symphonic          |
| MUSI 131 | Jazz Ensemble I: MSUB         |
| MUSI 147 | Choral Ensemble: Univ Chorus  |
| PHOT 154 | Exploring Digital Photography |
| THTR 101 | Introduction to Theatre       |

#### B. Humanities

Select three credits from the following: 3

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| ARTH 150 | Introduction to Art History    |
| HONR 111 | Perspectives and Understanding |
| LIT 110  | Intro to Literature            |
| LIT 213  | Montana Literature             |
| PHL 110  | Introduction to Ethics         |
| PHL 111  | Philosophies of Life           |
| PHL 254  | People and Politics            |

**Total Minimum credits 31**

<sup>1</sup> Students can satisfy Natural Sciences by taking SCIN 101, SCIN 102, and either SCIN 103 or SCIN 104.