

The GenEd 30 Framework

Issues to Consider

Faculty Senate, October 30, 2018



VCU

GenEd30 -- Guiding Principles (from Committee Charge)

1. 30 credit hours “portable across all undergraduate majors in the university.”
2. Governed by a coherent rationale.
3. Compliant with both SCHEV and SACSCOC
4. Assessment is necessary, but is to be handled by a group separate from the GenEd30 curriculum committee.
5. Development of student learning outcomes is to be handled by a group separate from the curriculum committee.

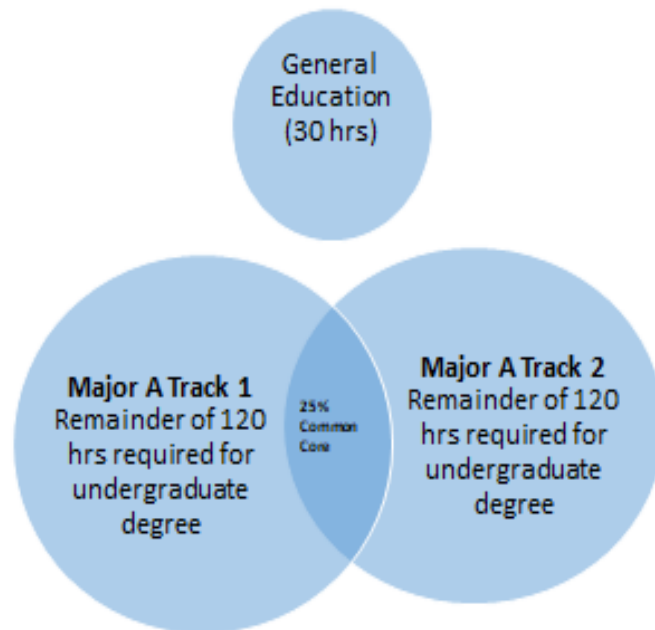
SCHEV Degree Program Common Core Requirement

Curriculum leading to the award of an associate's, bachelor's, master's, professional, or doctoral degree; is identified by a separate CIP code in the SCHEV program inventory; and, is listed on the student diploma. **All curricula under the CIP code share a common core of courses**¹. Various groupings of fewer courses may be used to define a variety of related support areas that do not appear on the diploma. Support areas are designated as: concentration, emphasis, focus, major, option, or track. Support areas developed after a degree program has been approved by Council must maintain the focus of the degree program and the common core requirement of the degree program. Council approval is not required to add new support areas to an existing degree program.

¹Common core requirements:

Bachelor's degree 25% of total credit hours required for the degree, excluding general education core

(SCHEV, *Approval of Program Actions at Public Institutions* (2016), p. 2.)



SACSCOC Standard 9.3

The **institution** requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level that:

(a) is based on a **coherent rationale**.

(b) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree program. For degree completion in . . . baccalaureate programs, **a minimum of 30 semester hours** or the equivalent.

(c) ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least **one course** from each of the following areas: **humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics**.

These courses **do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.**

GenEd30 Rationale

VCU's general education program seeks to provide a **diverse** student body with a broad base of **knowledge** and the **intellectual skills** to **participate actively** in a **changing world**. To those ends, the VCU general education program challenges students to seek **creative** answers to complex problems, see **connections** between disciplines and between ideas, and develop an **informed perspective** on the varieties of human experience.

GenEd30 Framework

Foundations (up to 12 credits)

- UNIV 111/112/200 or equivalent
- MATH 131/higher or STAT 208/above [*SOA uses MATH 121*]

Areas of Inquiry (18+ credits)

- **Diversities in the Human Experience** (3-9 credits)
- **Creativity, Innovation & Aesthetic Inquiry** (3-9 credits)
- **Global Perspectives** (3-9 credits)
- **Scientific & Logical Reasoning** (3-9 credits)

Total= 30 credits

(Note: general education student learning competencies are currently being determined)

GenEd30 Guidelines/Rules *(from GETF Report)*

For Students:

- 1 course from each of the four Areas of Inquiry
- Remaining 2 courses from any of the Four Areas
- Students may not complete more than 2 courses per course rubric/code, except 3 UNIV courses are permitted
- AP/IB, dual enrollment, and transfer courses may count toward fulfillment of GenEd30 requirements
- A total of 30 hours is required.

For Departments:

- Any discipline may contribute a course to any area
- All GenEd30 courses must be offered at least once during the fall or spring semester
- Only GenEd30 courses may serve as prereqs to other GenEd30 courses
- All GenEd30 courses must be open to all students
- No more than 4 courses may be offered for GenEd30 credit from each course rubric/code

How will GenEd30 requirements impact degree programs?

In general, GenEd30 requirements may be fulfilled by existing general education courses.

Students must have completed a minimum of 120 unique credit hours to graduate; and must have a 30 general education program; “double-dipping” (i.e. using a single course to satisfy a general education and a major requirement) is not permitted.

General Education requirements

University Core Education Curriculum

UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I 3 **GE30-Found**

UNIV 112 Focused Inquiry II 3 **GE30-Found**

UNIV 200 Inquiry & Craft of Argument 3 **GE30-Found**

Approved humanities/fine arts 3 **GE30-H/FA & Aol-Diversity?***

Approved natural/physical sciences 3-4 **GE30-Aol-Sc/Log**

Approved quantitative literacy 3-4 **GE30-Found**

Approved social/behav sciences 3-4 **GE30-S/BS&Aol-Diversity?***

Additional General Education requirements

CHEM 101 & CHEZ 101 4 **GE30-S/M &-Aol-Sc/Logic**

ECON 205 Econ. of Product Development 3 **GE30-AolGlob?**

SPCH 321 Speech for Bus & Prof 3 **GE30-AolCreat?**

Total Hours 31-34

*Areas of Inquiry alignment are hypothetical

Most existing degree programs will be able to satisfy GenEd30 requirements **without “double-dipping” or significantly altering their major requirements.** The total number of student required credit hours should not increase.

Some **adjustments in a few programs** may be necessary to ensure that students do not take more than 3 courses from a single course code/rubric or to ensure that the 30 gen ed credits **“do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.”**

Programs will need to develop strategies to **accommodate transferring students.**

Requests for waivers/exceptions **should be rare** and must be handled by a revised central GenEd 30 Substitution Committee.

Clear communication with faculty, advisors, students, and prospective students will be important.

Questions?