

Undergraduate Education and General Education at Indiana University Bloomington

Preamble

An undergraduate college education should broaden, enhance, and strengthen a person's knowledge, intellectual capabilities, and understanding and provide preparation for a productive professional career and for continuing growth as a person and as a citizen of the world. The undergraduate student must grow from an epistemology and ethics based on authority to one based on an autonomous, reasoned evaluation of assertions and evidence. A holder of a baccalaureate degree should be able to analyze critically the surrounding world and to articulate that analysis coherently to others. The holder should be able to draw upon a broad understanding of multiple disciplines in order to participate fully in contemporary society.

To this end, every Indiana University Bloomington undergraduate degree includes common course and disciplinary requirements which integrate the general developmental goals of an education with the special resources of the campus. These common requirements assure that all students appreciate the campus's ideals for an Indiana University Bloomington education and that they have the opportunity to explore a breadth of academic opportunities as well as the more specialized demands of a chosen major field of study. An Indiana University Bloomington undergraduate education should provide substantial intellectual capabilities in written and verbal communication, qualitative and quantitative analysis and reasoning, a solid breadth of knowledge across disciplines and fields of study, opportunities for educational engagement with the global community, literacy in information resources, and significant strength in at least one discipline or one interdisciplinary area.

General Education may be viewed as a foundation for the pursuit of an undergraduate degree. The Indiana University Bloomington General Education Program includes two basic components: the Common Ground (Foundations, Breadth of Inquiry, World Languages and Cultures) which is foundational to the development of intellectual capabilities and must be included in every undergraduate degree offered by Indiana University Bloomington; and, Shared Goals, which include components the faculty recommends for inclusion in every undergraduate degree program offered by Indiana University Bloomington.

Indiana University Bloomington offers a rich environment for such an education. Offering some 350 different degrees in the arts, sciences, and professions, it is committed through its faculty and facilities to quality teaching, cutting-edge research, scholarship, arts, and creative activity. Its academic programs build on the dynamic interrelationship of the College of Arts and Sciences with its liberal arts tradition and an array of distinguished professional schools. Drawing on a deep legacy of international engagement, the campus features foreign-language, culture, and arts emphases ranging across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa, and more than 80 study-abroad opportunities for undergraduates. It offers physical space for an abundance of cultural resources, including world-class venues for music, drama, and the visual arts, and major research libraries and book and artifact collections. Additionally Indiana University Bloomington provides a residential living environment which supports the campus's academic mission and encourages engagement with the intellectual, cultural, and community richness of the world outside its gates, both near and far.

Indiana University Bloomington General Education Program

The Indiana University Bloomington General Education Program consists of two parts, each of which is viewed by the campus faculty as equally important in the overall undergraduate educational experience. This two-part structure recognizes that some experiences are better completed universally by all undergraduates and other components are better defined within the context of each degree program. The faculty in each degree program are responsible for developing the most appropriate ways of incorporating these two components into each degree program. The Common Ground must be incorporated into every degree program. The Shared Goals are recommended for inclusion in every degree program.

I. The Common Ground (Required; up to 31 credits)

- a. Foundations
 - i. Writing: English Composition- 3 credits
 - ii. Mathematical Modeling – 3-4 credits
- b. Breadth of Inquiry
 - i. Arts and Humanities- 6 credits
 - ii. Social and Historical studies- 6 credits
 - iii. Natural and Mathematical Sciences- 5 credits including a laboratory component or 6 credits of two 3-credit courses
- c. World Languages and Cultures
Second-year level of a world language (6 credits) **OR** World Culture courses (6 credits) **OR** International experience in an approved study abroad (6 credits)

II. Shared Goals (Recommended; to be structured by faculty in each degree program; might be completed by embedding these goals in current curricula, through coursework for credit, or non-credit bearing activities)

- a. Intensive Writing
- b. Information Fluency
- c. Diversity in the United States
- d. Enriching Educational Experiences (service learning, internship, capstone project, student teaching, independent research/creative activity program, an approved study abroad experience, honors thesis, show, recital, performance)

General Guidelines

1. The General Education Program will be fully implemented in conjunction with the new admissions requirements by Fall 2011.
2. All courses or experiences used to fulfill Common Ground components of the General Education program must be approved by the General Education Committee.
3. Courses used to fulfill the Common Ground-Foundations components are limited to those courses or equivalencies approved for such use by the General Education Committee.
4. Courses and experiences used to fulfill Common Ground-Breadth of Inquiry and World Languages and Cultures components of the General Education program will be drawn primarily from the College of Arts and Sciences but may include courses and experiences proposed from other academic units on the Bloomington campus.
5. Courses or experiences designed for specific majors, and with extensive prerequisites, and where no substitutions or equivalences exist across the campus, should not be considered appropriate for inclusion in the Common Ground.
6. An individual course may satisfy more than one Common Ground-Breadth of Inquiry of Common Ground-World Languages and Cultures requirement of the General Education program if that course is approved for the relevant requirements. See Guidelines for Common Ground-Foundations below for restrictions on using courses approved for Foundations credit for more than one requirement. Courses approved for general education credit may overlap (double-count) with courses required by individual degree programs.
7. Because dual-credit (e.g., ACP) courses, credit by examination courses (e.g., special credit and AP credit), and transferred courses are entered on Indiana University transcripts as their Indiana University course equivalences, such courses are automatically accepted for satisfying the requirements of this General Education program.
8. Degree program requests for exceptions to the General Education program should be submitted to the General Education Committee through the associate dean/director for undergraduate education of the requesting school/college.
9. Schools retain the authority to set admission standards for individual degree programs including prerequisites, grade minima, etc.

Guidelines for Courses in Specific Areas

(SHADED SECTIONS ARE INCLUDED TO ILLUSTRATE MATERIAL TO BE DEVELOPED FOR EACH COMMON GROUND COMPONENT)

The Common Ground

I. Foundations

A. Writing: English Composition (0-3 credits)

These courses should a) have instruction in writing as a primary emphasis, b) include a full semester or equivalent of frequent and regular (i.e., weekly) writing assignments, c) emphasize

critical thinking, development of ideas, clarity of expression, and organization in addition to correct grammar, spelling, and formal writing structure, d) emphasize multi-draft writing assignments, and e) involve rigorous evaluation of writing assignments. Courses approved for the Writing: English Composition requirement must have extensive and well-conceived systems for the preparation and ongoing supervision of teaching assistants. Courses approved for the Writing: English Composition requirement should be taught with section sizes consistent with the goal of promoting development of writing through directed rewriting following careful evaluation. Courses taken under these options, except for English W131, W143, and W170, may, if they are so designated, satisfy more than one General Education requirement.

The writing requirement may be fulfilled in any one of the following ways:

1. Successful completion of any of the following options:
 - a. English W131 (Elementary Composition, 3 cr.)
 - b. English W170 (Projects in Reading and Writing, 3 cr.)
 - c. English L141 and L142 (Introduction to Writing and the Study of Literature, 4-4 cr.)
 - d. African American and African Diaspora Studies A141 and A142 (Introduction to Writing and the Study of Black Literature, 4-4 cr.)
 - e. Two semesters of English W143 (Interdisciplinary Study of Expository Writing, 1 cr.), combined with two introductory courses (3 cr.) from the following: Comparative Literature C145 (Major Characters in Literature), C146 (Major Themes in Literature).
 - f. A combination of any two courses from (d) and (e) above.
2. Exemption without credit. Students scoring 670 or above on the SAT Critical Reading test, or 32 or above on the ACT English Composition section, or 4 to 5 on the Advanced Placement English Composition section, are exempt from English composition.
3. Exemption with credit. Some students have an opportunity to receive College of Arts and Sciences credit. A student will be granted 2 credit hours of English W143 (Interdisciplinary Study of Expository Writing) if the student has:
 - a. a score of 670 or above on the SAT Critical Reading test, or 32 or above on the ACT English Composition section, or 4 to 5 on the Advanced Placement English Composition section, PLUS
 - b. a score of 660 or better on the SAT Writing Test, AND if the student applies to the Department of English in Ballantine Hall 442. Students should also see "Special Note" under Credit by Examination in the College of Arts and Sciences *Bulletin*.

B. Mathematical Modeling (0-4 credits)

To be approved for General Education credit, a course must be a mathematics course required for students majoring in the natural sciences or mathematics or a mathematics course for non-science majors that includes modeling of phenomena in the health sciences, social sciences, or environmental sciences. A course used to satisfy the Math Foundations requirement may not double-count toward the Breadth of Inquiry Natural and Mathematical Sciences requirement.

The Mathematical Modeling requirement may be fulfilled in any one of the following ways:

1. Successful completion of any of the following options:
 - a. MATH A118 (Finite Mathematics for the Social and Biological Sciences- 3 cr.)
 - b. MATH M118 (Finite Mathematics- 3 cr.)
 - c. MATH M119 (Brief Survey of Calculus I- 3 cr.)
 - d. MATH M211 (Calculus I- 4 cr.)
 - e. MATH M212 (Calculus II- 4 cr.)
 - f. MATH D116 and D117 (Introduction to Finite Mathematics, 2-2 credits)*
 - g. COLL J113 (Introduction to Calculus with Applications- 3 cr.)*
2. Exemption without credit. Students scoring 650 or above on the SAT Math Examination, or 29 or above on the ACT Math, are exempt from the Mathematical Modeling requirement.
3. Exemption with credit. Students may be exempted from the Mathematical Modeling requirement through CEEB Advanced Placements tests in Calculus or through departmental examinations. Students who pass a departmentally administered examination may be eligible for special credit. For information about applying for these credit hours, refer to Credit by Examination in the College of Arts and Sciences Bulletin.

* Only students with prior authorization may take this course.

Note: Students entering the University who have scored below 400 on the SAT Math section or below 20 on the ACT Math section are advised to enroll in MATH M014 before fulfilling the Mathematical Modeling requirement. Students with incomplete records may take a placement test administered by the Department of Mathematics.

II. Breadth of Inquiry

A. Arts and Humanities (2 courses, 6 credits)

Courses in this area help students think about the complexity of human experience, appreciate the range of human thought and emotion, learn about varieties of aesthetic expression, and grapple with moral issues.

B. Social and Historical Studies (2 courses, 6 credits)

Courses in this area analyze social institutions, the behavior of individuals in social contexts and historical settings, and changes in social conditions over time. Students are introduced to theories and methods for studying social experience and behavior.

C. Natural and Mathematical Sciences (2 courses, 5-6 credits)

Courses in this area provide an appreciation of the physical and biological environment, introduce students to systematic investigation of those environments, show the value of experimental methods for understanding natural laws, and explore the role and methods of the mathematical sciences. Students can complete this requirement through 5 credits including a laboratory component or 6 credits of two 3-credit courses.

III. World Languages and Cultures (6 credits)

The World Languages and Cultures requirement may be fulfilled in any of the following ways:

Language Study (6 credits)

Students must successfully complete two world language courses (same language) at the second-year level or higher. Note also that all or part of this requirement may be fulfilled by performance on placement examinations. Students whose scores on the language placement exam place them in or beyond the second semester of language study may be eligible for special credit in some languages (see Credit by Examination and Foreign Languages, Placement in the College of Arts and Sciences Bulletin). Completion of high school foreign language courses will not be accepted as a basis for exemption. Students may fulfill the entire foreign language requirement by placing into the third-year level. International students may fulfill the foreign language requirement through demonstrated proficiency in their native languages. Course sequences that fulfill the World Language requirement may be offered in the languages listed below. Available options, at present, include: American Sign Language (Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences), Arabic, Bambara, Chinese-Mandarin, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek (Classical or Modern), Hausa, Hebrew (Biblical or Modern), Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lakota (Sioux), Latin-Classical, Mongolian, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Sanskrit, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Tibetan, Turkish, Twi, Urdu, Uzbek, Yiddish, and Zulu.

OR

World Culture Courses (6 credits)

Students must successfully complete two World Culture Courses from an approved list. World Cultures Courses seek to expand student knowledge of world affairs, cultures, societies, and values, explore knowledge traditions grounded in cultural paradigms, provide a framework for understanding and appreciating ideas and values of different cultures.

OR

International Experience (6 credits)

To fulfill the International Experience requirement a study abroad program must strive to increase student knowledge of the variety of international societies and may deal to some extent with U.S. culture in its international connections. It need not focus exclusively on the present and may, indeed, be a historical subject. Courses or experiences should: cultivate student knowledge of the similarities and differences among international cultures; convey to students a knowledge of other nations' cultural values, traditions, beliefs, and customs; increase students' knowledge of the range of international cultural achievements and human conditions through time; increase students' knowledge of nations and cultures not in isolation, but in relation to one another.

Shared Goals: Components Recommended within the Context of Each Degree

Each degree program should be designed in such a way that students are provided opportunities to experience these additional aspects of an undergraduate education.

A. Intensive Writing

Each degree program should articulate how undergraduate students fulfill this requirement within their degree program. Normally, the expectations for an intensive writing experience would be: taught by faculty in small sections or by individual arrangement; include a series of written assignments evaluated with close attention to organization and expression as well as to substance and argument; graded revision of assignments.

B. Information Fluency

Information Fluency includes, but goes beyond, information technology skills, to introduce students to critical information resources that underlie the major field of study and introduce students to skills in utilizing information resources within that field. Students should be able to determine the extent of information needed, access the needed information effectively and efficiently, evaluate information and its sources critically, incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base, use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally.

C. Diversity in the United States

As approved by the Bloomington Faculty Council (Circular B39-1990), the faculty of each undergraduate degree-granting unit shall adopt a degree requirement appropriate to their curriculum that addresses issues of diversity in the United States. Adoption of a requirement that has a focus on the issues of diversity and cultural, racial, ethnic, class, age, ability, sexual orientation, religious, and gender discrimination within the context of the United States would be especially useful in achieving the objectives of enhanced understanding of diversity.

D. Enriching Educational Experiences

Meaningful educational experiences, some of which may be outside the traditional classroom, can enhance the overall undergraduate academic experience. These experiences may or may not be linked to specific courses. Each academic program should set forth the accepted options for fulfilling this shared goal. IUB recognizes the value of different types of enriching educational activities, such as a service-learning course, internship, community service and community-based action research, fieldwork, capstone project, student teaching, independent research/creative activity program, approved study abroad experience, honors thesis, show, recital, performance, or advocacy in your major. Such experiences provide opportunities to apply discipline-specific skills and knowledge to community issues and to examine issues of service and social responsibility that relate to the chosen career field.

The General Education Committee and Campus Charge

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council will establish a General Education Committee to facilitate the implementation and ongoing assessment of the General Education program.

2. The General Education Committee will have a voting membership consisting of the Associate Dean/Director for Undergraduate Education of each undergraduate School and the College together with other tenured/tenure-track faculty selected so that the voting membership as a whole has

- a. proportional representation based on the number of tenured/tenure-track faculty in the Bloomington Schools that offer baccalaureate degrees, and
- b. a majority consisting of tenured/tenure-track faculty who do not hold school-level administrative appointments,

and which committee has two co-chairs, one of whom is appointed by the Provost and the other of whom is appointed by the Bloomington Faculty Council Nominations Committee. Each school will recommend its members to the Provost. The Provost will formally appoint the committee membership. To conduct its work, the General Education Committee may add ex-officio, including student, non-voting members, as needed.

3. In order for any proposal to be approved by the committee, whether concerning course recommendations or broader matters, the proposal must receive the support both (i) of a majority of the voting members and (ii) of at least some voting members from at least four of the College and Schools. Only a majority vote of the committee is necessary to disapprove any such proposal.

4. The General Education Committee is charged with:

- a. final preparation of the General Education proposal to be submitted to the Bloomington Faculty Council during the 2006-2007 academic year, including:
 - i. Final definitions of curricular components including learning objectives for each component,
 - ii. Approved course lists (including, but not limited to: evaluation of historical enrollment, grading, and instruction data, sample syllabi, frequency of course offering, etc.), and
 - iii. Unit impact evaluations (to be prepared by each school/college).
- b. reviewing proposals for general education courses in an ongoing capacity.
- c. developing assessment metrics for ongoing evaluation of the Common Ground and the Shared Goals.
- d. conducting a baseline assessment of the campus's current experiences with the Common Ground and Shared Goals during the period 2007-2011.
- e. reviewing unit reports on the implementation, ongoing experience, and effectiveness of the General Education Program within each degree program (Note: An initial collection of each report should be presented to the BFC by December 2008).
- f. monitoring budgetary implications, with the Vice Provost for Budgetary Administration and Planning, of the implementation and ongoing experiences with the General Education Program.

g. delivering annual updates (in October for the previous year) and five-year reports to the BFC on the status of the General Education Program.

5. The President, the Provost, and the College and School Deans of Indiana University Bloomington shall take steps to insure that the budgetary adjustments necessary to implement this General Education Program do not adversely impact the research mission of any unit and shall undertake to diminish the budgetary incentives for, and prevent the occurrence of, academic encroachment between academic units. The President and Provost will make the necessary resources available to support the work of the General Education Committee and the implementation of the General Education Program.