

George Brown College General Education Requirements Policy

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PURPOSE

This policy guides the provision of general education courses in all ministry-approved George Brown College programs. The inclusion of general education courses is required in all diploma programs, as per the MCU Binding Policy Directive: *Framework for Programs of Instruction* (2003, rev. 2009).

SCOPE

This policy applies to all ministry-approved George Brown College programs.

DEFINITIONS

This includes an explanation of terms and abbreviations used within the policy and procedure.

Word/Term	Definition
General Education course	A <i>diploma-level</i> course (coded GHUM, GSCI, or GSSC) designed to enable students to enhance critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills while they expand and deepen their knowledge and understanding of the humanities, sciences and social sciences.
General Education Elective Course	A general education course that is chosen by the student in a program from a range of options offered by the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences or otherwise approved by the Chair, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
General Education Mandatory Course	A general education course that is a required program course offered by the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences or otherwise approved by the Chair, Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Breadth requirements	General Education courses are required to offer broad-based education of personal and/or societal importance, outside the student's vocational field of study, in contrast to courses that focus on developing specific applied skills.
Procedure	The operational processes required to implement college policy, to be provided as a clear sequence of instructions to be followed.
Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU)	The MCU is responsible for the administration of laws relating to education and skills training. For more information go to the Ministry website: https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-colleges-universities

1.0 General Principles

George Brown's General Education Policy is aligned with MCU Binding Policy Directive:

The purpose of General Education is to contribute to the development of individuals who are conscious of the diversity, complexity and richness of the human experience, enhancing their ability to contribute thoughtfully and meaningfully to the society in which they live and work. General education courses strengthen students' human skills, such as critical analysis, complex problem-solving, and communication skills, in the context of an exploration of topics with broad-based personal and/or societal importance, and expand the student's exposure outside the vocational field of study. (*Framework for Programs of Instruction*, 2003, rev. 2009).

2.0 Oversight

The Chair, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences provides oversight to all General Education courses, both mandatory and elective, providing quality assurance and ensuring compliance with MCU's binding policy directives. [See Appendix #1: Approval process for mandatory General Education courses]

3.0 Ministry-Mandated Themes: The General Education curriculum includes a broad range of courses falling into one or more of the following themes mandated by the Ministry:

3.1 Arts in Society – George Brown courses that fall within this theme will typically be designated with an Arts and Humanities course code, GHUM.

3.2 Civic Life – George Brown courses that fall within this theme will typically be designated with a Social Science course code, GSSC.

3.3 Social and Cultural Understanding – George Brown courses that fall within this theme will typically be designated with a Social Science course code, GSSC.

3.4 Personal Understanding – George Brown courses that fall within this theme will typically be designated with a Social Science course code, GSSC, or an Arts and Humanities course code, GHUM.

3.5 Science and Technology – George Brown courses that fall within this theme will typically be designated with a Science and Technology course code, GSCI.

4.0 General Education Requirements

4.1 Students in diploma or advanced diploma programs must successfully complete a minimum of three (3) General Education courses to graduate.

4.2 A minimum of two (2) out of the three (3) General Education courses must be electives chosen by the student.

4.3 One (1) of the three (3) General Education courses can be mandated by the academic department. To be mandated by the academic program, the general education course must satisfy breadth requirements for students in the academic program, i.e. provide sufficient exposure to broad learning outside the vocational field of study. [See Appendix #1: Approval process for mandatory General Education courses]

4.4 To satisfy MCU requirements, students must take a General Education course in at least two of the following categories:

1. Arts and Humanities (GHUM)
2. Social Sciences (GSSC)
3. Science and Technology (GSCI)

4.5 Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet George Brown's General Education requirements.

4.6 Certificate programs may require General Education courses, as identified in the program's course listings.

5.0 General Education Exemptions

5.1 Some students may be eligible for exemption from General Education courses on the basis of prior post-secondary credit from a recognized post-secondary institution.

5.2 To be exempted from a General Education Elective, students must have successfully completed a post-secondary General Education credit (minimum mark of 60% or C-) from a recognized post-secondary institution. The course cannot previously have been used for an exemption. The Breadth requirement still applies.

5.3 The Chair of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (or a designate) assesses exemption requests for General Education Elective courses. [Please see Appendix #2 for the General Education Exemption Application process]

APPENDIX #1: Approval process for mandatory General Education courses

To be inserted for September 2021

APPENDIX #2: General Education Exemption Application Process

To be inserted for September 2021

NON-COMPLIANCE IMPLICATIONS

This policy has been sanctioned by George Brown College, requiring compliance across the college. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary measures commensurate with the offence. This policy shall have force and effect from the day it is approved (the “Effective Date”), and shall replace and supercede all prior versions of the policy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

N/A

RELATED POLICIES

Liberal Studies Requirements Policy
Office of the Registrar’s Policy
Promotion and Progression Policy
Transfer Credit Policy PLAR Policy

RELATED MATERIALS

Academic Employees Collective Agreement (2017-2021)
Government of Ontario, Ministry of Colleges and Universities. Framework for Programs of Instructions, Minister’s Binding Policy Directive (2003)
Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technologies Act, 2002 (OCAAT Act)
Minister’s Binding Policy Directive - Framework for Programs of Instruction. 2003 (Rev. July 2009)
Ontario College Quality Assurance Service, Program Quality Assurance Process Audit: Orientation Manual, Jan. 2014
Post-secondary Choice and Excellence Act (2000)