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GEN ED AT UHM

This chapter provides an overview of the General Education (GenEd) program: features, requirements for students, and text from the foundational document approved by the Board of Regents and Faculty Senate.

Through the efforts of the faculty, UHM's GenEd program was reformed in 1999 and approved by the Mānoa Faculty Senate in 2000. Students and faculty members have benefited from the program's many positive features since its implementation in 2001.

Flexibility:

Courses are offered in a variety of disciplines to aid students in making selections that fit their needs and interests.

Enriched curriculum:

Faculty members have the opportunity to create courses and learning experiences that create a solid foundation for the "Mānoa experience."

Attention to social needs:

Students examine issues that promote their development as global citizens, including learning about ethics and Hawaiian, Asian, & Pacific issues, and develop effective oral and written communication skills.

Pathway to the academic major:

Students have the ability to make GenEd choices that complement the goals and requirements of their major.

Criteria-based transfer policies:

Students have opportunities to satisfy GenEd requirements through transfer courses, because the decisions are based on criteria-governed standards, not course equivalencies.

Ongoing assessment:

The GEC is tasked with examining program effectiveness through the Faculty Boards' review of course proposals, and systematic assessment of student achievement of Gen Ed Hallmarks and student learning objectives.

GenEd Components	
<u>Core requirements</u>	<u>Special Graduation requirements</u>
1. Foundations	3. Focus
2. Diversification	4. Hawaiian/Second Language

GenEd Requirements: Overview

Sources: *UH Mānoa General Education Requirements; UHM Catalog*

1. Foundations (Core requirement)

Foundations courses give students skills and perspectives that are fundamental to their success in higher education.

Students must complete approved courses in these areas:

- Written Communication (FW): 3 credits
- Quantitative Reasoning (FQ): 3 credits¹
- Global & Multicultural Perspectives (FG): a total of 6 credits from two different groups (FGA, FGB, FGC)

2. Diversification (Core requirement)

The Diversification requirements assure that every student is exposed to different domains of knowledge and to multiple methods of inquiry.

Students must complete approved courses in these areas:

- Arts (DA), Humanities (DH), & Literatures (DL): a total of 6 credits from two of the three areas
- Biological Science (DB): 3 credits; Physical Science (DP): 3 credits; Science Laboratory (DY): 1 credit
- Social Sciences (DS): a total of 6 credits from at least two different subject areas [2/12/14]

3. Focus (Special Graduation requirement)

Focus requirements assure that students have transferable knowledge and skills that are necessary for living and working in diverse communities.

Students must complete approved courses in these areas:

- Hawaiian, Asian, & Pacific Issues (H or HAP): 1 class
- Contemporary Ethical Issues (E or ETH): 1 class, 300- or 400-level
- Oral Communication (O or OC): 1 class, 300- or 400-level
- Writing Intensive (W or WI): 5 classes, at least two of which are at the 300- or 400-level

4. Hawaiian/Second Language (Special Graduation requirement)

Knowledge of a second language increases a student's ability to understand other people and cultures.

Students must demonstrate competence at the 202 (or equivalent) level in Hawaiian or a second language. (Note: Some Schools/Colleges have modified this requirement for their students. See page 3-10 of this Handbook for more details.) Students with previous language experience may earn up to 16 "back credits."

¹ FQ replaces Foundations-Symbolic Reasoning (FS) for students entering the UH System in Fall 2018 and beyond. For students who entered UH prior to Fall 2018, FS courses will be offered through Summer 2023.

GenEd Requirements

Below are the General Education requirements as described in the 2019-20 UHM Catalog (<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/catalog/undergrad/undergrad-requirements/>).

To obtain an undergraduate degree from UH Mānoa, a student must satisfy: (a) General Education requirements, (b) requirements of the student's college or school, and (c) requirements of the student's specific academic major. This section describes the four components of the UH Mānoa General Education requirements:

1. **Foundations**
2. **Diversification**
3. **Focus**
4. **Hawaiian or Second Language**

Foundations and Diversification together are UH Mānoa *Core* requirements. Focus and Hawaiian or Second Language together are UH Mānoa *Special Graduation* requirements.

1. Foundations Requirement: 12 credits

The Foundations requirements are intended to give students skills and perspectives that are fundamental to undertaking higher education. Students should complete the Foundations requirements during their first year at UH Mānoa. Courses taken to fulfill the Foundations requirements may not be used to fulfill Diversification or Focus requirements. For more information about the Foundations requirements, proposal process, and approved courses, see Chapter 4.

- **Written Communication (FW): 3 credits**

Written Communication (FW) courses introduce students to the rhetorical, conceptual, and stylistic demands of writing at the college level. Students receive instruction in composing processes, search strategies, and how to access and use various types of primary and secondary materials.

- **Quantitative Reasoning (FQ): 3 credits**

The primary goal of FQ courses is to develop mathematical reasoning skills at the college level. Students apply mathematical concepts to the interpretation and analysis of quantifiable information in order to solve a wide range of problems arising in pure and applied research in specific disciplines, professional settings, and/or daily life.

- **Global and Multicultural Perspectives (FG): 2 courses, 6 credits**

Global and Multicultural Perspectives (FG) courses provide thematic treatments of global processes and cross-cultural interactions from a variety of perspectives. Students will trace human development from prehistory to modern times through examination of narratives and artifacts from diverse cultures. At least one component of each of these courses will involve the Indigenous cultures of Hawai'i, the Pacific, and Asia. To satisfy this requirement, students must take a total of six credits; the six credits must come from two different groups/time periods.

For Non-UH System Transfer Students Only

Students who transfer from a non-UH System school with one or more western civilization courses will be required to take only three credits of Foundations-Global and Multicultural Perspectives. If the course or courses that they have taken are time-period specific, the credits that they take at UH Mānoa must cover a different time period.

2. Diversification Requirement: 19 credits

The Diversification requirements are intended to assure that every student has exposure to different domains of academic knowledge, while at the same time allowing flexibility in choice of courses for students with different goals and interests.

- **Arts, Humanities, and Literatures (DA, DH, DL): 6 credits**

To satisfy this requirement, students must take six credits; the six credits must include two of the three different areas: Arts "DA," Humanities "DH," and Literatures "DL."

- **Social Sciences (DS): 6 credits**

To satisfy this requirement, students must take a total of six credits from two different departments.²

- **Natural Sciences (DB, DP, DY): 7 credits**

To satisfy this requirement, students must take three credits in Biological Science "DB," three credits in Physical Science "DP," and one credit of Science Laboratory "DY."

² Some departments have multiple course alphas. Students who take their two DS courses from the same department but with different course alphas are considered to have fulfilled the DS requirement. For example, the Family and Consumer Sciences Department offers two course alphas: Human Development & Family Studies (HDFS) and Fashion Design and Merchandising (FDM). A student who takes HDFS 230 and FDM 200 is considered to have fulfilled the DS requirement.

3. Focus Requirements

The Focus requirements identify important additional skills and knowledge necessary for living and working in diverse communities. Courses fulfilling Focus requirements are offered in departments across the curriculum and vary each semester.

- **Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Issues (H or HAP): 1 course, any level**

These courses focus on issues in Native Hawaiian and Asian or Pacific cultures and history; they promote cross-cultural understanding between nations and cultures.

- **Contemporary Ethical Issues (E or ETH): 1 course, 300- or 400-level**

These courses involve significant readings on, and discussion of, contemporary ethical issues; they give students tools for the development of responsible ethical judgments.

- **Oral Communication (O or OC): 1 course, 300- or 400-level**

These courses provide students with training in oral delivery and give them the opportunity to do individual and/or group oral reports.

- **Writing Intensive (W or WI): 5 courses, including at least two at the 300- or 400-level**

These courses collectively help students both to learn course content and to communicate through writing. Small writing-intensive classes, in which instructors work with students on writing related to course topics, are offered in nearly all departments.

Exemption from a Focus Requirement

Students who have engaged in one or more extraordinary educational experiences that took place outside of the ordinary university curriculum may request exemption from up to three Focus requirements that are directly related to the educational experience(s). To earn exemption, students must demonstrate to the General Education Committee that the experience(s) fulfilled the goals of the requested Focus area(s). Approved exemptions reduce the number of courses required for the approved Focus area(s); however, they do not reduce the total number of credit hours needed to graduate. Students are limited to three exemptions. Restrictions apply. For more information, consult a college/school academic advisor or visit <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/gened/students/exemptions/>

4. Hawaiian or Second Language Requirement

Knowledge of a second language encourages deeper awareness of the structure of language and its relation to thought. It develops sensitivity to other ways of ordering personal experience and social institutions, provides a direct way of comparing another culture to one's own, and provides insight into the workings of one's native language.

Before graduation, students must show competence at the 202 (or equivalent) level in Hawaiian or a second language by doing one of the following:

- a. Completing a four-semester sequence (usually 101, 102, 201, and 202) in a single language.
- b. Demonstrating competence by taking a UH Mānoa language-competency exam if one is offered. Check with the language department in question.
- c. Receiving a language-requirement waiver by demonstrating 202-level second language competency. For example, waivers may be given to students who are native speakers of a language other than English.