GEN ED AT UHM

This chapter provides an overview of the General Education (Gen Ed) 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 Gen Ed 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 Gen Ed choices that complement the goals and requirements of their major.

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

Ongoing assessment:
Faculty boards examine program effectiveness and review course proposals to ensure Gen Ed Hallmarks and student learning objectives are met.

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Gen Ed Requirements: Overview

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 credits\(^1\)
- 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 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.”

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\(^1\) 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.
Gen Ed Requirements

Below are the General Education requirements as described in the 2018-19 UHM Catalog (http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/corerequirements/coreRequirements.html).

To obtain an undergraduate degree from UH Manoa, 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 Manoa General Education requirements:

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

Foundations and Diversification together are UH Manoa *Core* requirements. Focus and Hawaiian or Second Language together are UH Manoa *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 Manoa. Courses taken to fulfill the Foundations requirements may not be used to fulfill Diversification or Focus requirements.

**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.

**FW Courses**

- AMST 111 Introduction to American Studies Writing
- ENG 100, 100A Composition I
- ENG 190 Composition I for Transfer Students to UH Manoa
- ESL 100 Composition I for Second Language Writers

To enroll in a course that meets the Written Communication requirement, students must first determine their course eligibility by visiting [www.hawaii.edu/gened/foundations_fulfillFW.htm](http://www.hawaii.edu/gened/foundations_fulfillFW.htm). Non-native speakers of English should visit [www.hawaii.edu/eli](http://www.hawaii.edu/eli) or contact the English Language Institute at (808) 956-8610, uhmeli@hawaii.edu.
Students can satisfy the FW requirement by earning a score of 4 or 5 on either of the Advanced Placement (AP) English examinations; see www.manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/pdf/AP.pdf for details. Students may also be able to satisfy this requirement through submission of a collection of writing. For eligibility criteria and other information, visit www.hawaii.edu/gened/foundations_FWcollection.htm or contact the General Education Office at (808) 956-6660, gened@hawaii.edu.

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.

Effective Fall 2018, Quantitative Reasoning (FQ) replaces Symbolic Reasoning (FS) as a General Education requirement. To ensure there is adequate time for students who entered the UH System prior to Fall 2018 to complete their FS requirements, FS courses will be offered through Summer 2023 at UH Manoa and through Summer 2020 at UH community colleges.

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.

Students entering the UH System in Fall 2018 and beyond may select courses with the FQ designation. Students who entered the UH System prior to Fall 2018 and have been continuously enrolled should refer to their original catalog year requirements. Students should contact their designated college/school academic or faculty advisor for more information.

FQ/FS Courses

- BUS 250* Applied Math in Business
- ICS 141 Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science I
- MATH 100 Survey of Mathematics
- MATH 112* Math for Elementary Teachers II
- MATH 140** Precalculus: Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry
- MATH 161 Precalculus and Elements of Calculus for Economics and the Social Sciences
- MATH 203** Calculus for Business and Social Sciences
- MATH 215** Applied Calculus I
- MATH 241** Calculus I
- MATH 251A** Accelerated Calculus I
- NREM 203 Applied Calculus for Management, Life Sciences, and Human Resources

FQ Courses

- ANTH 220 Quantitative Reasoning for Anthropologists
- ATMO/GG/OCN 150 Introduction to Quantitative Earth and Environmental Science
- GG 102 Quantifying Global and Environmental Change
- PH 210 Quantitative Reasoning for Public Health
- PHIL 111 Introduction to Inductive Logic

* Course has a prerequisite.
** Requires placement by Math Department’s Precalculus Assessment; visit www.math.hawaii.edu.

**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.

**FG Courses**

To satisfy this requirement, students must take a total of six credits; the six credits must come from two different groups.

**Group A** (FGA; courses cover the time period prehistory to 1500)

- ANTH 151, 151A Emerging Humanity
- ART 175 Survey of Global Art I
- HIST 151 World History to 1500
- HIST 161A World Cultures in Perspective
- LLEA 151 World Myth to 1500 C.E.
- OCN 105/SUST 115 Sustainability in a Changing World
- PHIL 130 Introduction to World Philosophy I
- REL 149 Introduction to the World’s Goddesses
- WS 175 History of Gender, Sex, and Sexuality in Global Perspectives to 1500 CE

**Group B** (FGB; courses cover the time period 1500 to modern times)

- AMST 150 America and the World
- ANTH 152, 152A Culture and Humanity
- ART 176, 176A Survey of Global Art II
- FSHN 141 Culture and Cuisine: The Global Diversity of Food
- GEOG 102 World Regional Geography
- HAW 100 Language in Hawai‘i: A Microcosm of Global Language Issues
- HIST 152 World History since 1500
- HIST 162A World Cultures in Perspective
- LING 105 Language Endangerment, Globalization, and Indigenous Peoples
- POLS 150 Introduction to Global Politics
- POLS 160/SOCS 180 Introduction to International and Global Studies
- TIM 102 Food and World Cultures
- WS 176 History of Gender, Sex and Sexuality in Global Perspective, 1500 CE to the Present
Group C (FGC; courses cover the time period prehistory to modern times)

- BOT 107, 107A Plants, People, and Culture
- GEOG 151 Geography and Contemporary Society
- GG 135 Natural Disasters and Human History
- HIST 156 World History of Human Disease
- MUS 107, 107A Music in World Cultures
- REL 150 Introduction to the World’s Major Religions
- SLS 150 Learning Languages and Communicating Interculturally in a Global Multilingual World

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 Manoa 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.*

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.”
Diversification Courses

Diversification courses are identified in this Catalog in the “Courses” section with the following letters after the course description:

**DA** = Arts  
**DB** = Biological Science  
**DH** = Humanities  
**DL** = Literatures  
**DP** = Physical Science  
**DS** = Social Science  
**DY** = Laboratory (science)

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 www.hawaii.edu/gened/focus_exemption.htm.

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 Manoa 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.