

## Attachment A

### **Plan for General Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

General Education requirements are minimum expectations for the educational experience of every university graduate. Colleges and departments build on this foundation with their own requirements. This plan views undergraduate education as an opportunity for each student to find coherence through careful combinations of General Education, College and Department requirements. In addition it notes that certain abilities can best be attained through course work within the student's chosen major rather than via generic courses required of all students.

This plan for General Education is intended to increase possibilities for educational coherence through increased flexibility. It moves away from the the concept of a fixed list of required courses. This increased flexibility with regard to course offerings satisfying General Education requirements is also designed to facilitate transfer of students to Mānoa, both from within the UH system and from other institutions. The plan acknowledges existing articulation agreements.

#### **A. UHM Core Requirements**

##### 1. Foundations requirement (minimum of 12 credits)

- Written communication
- Symbolic reasoning
- Global and Multicultural Perspectives

The foundations requirements are intended to give students skills and perspectives that are fundamental to undertaking higher education. They ensure that all students develop basic competency in written communication, in the use of written resources whether in the library or on the internet, in the use of abstract symbols in contexts of problem solving, the presentation and critical evaluation of evidence, and the development of strategies of argument. At the same time they will, in a thematic fashion, be studying global processes and cross cultural interactions from a variety of perspectives. Courses satisfying this latter requirement have appreciation of cultural diversity as one of their primary goals. For students who enter Mānoa as freshmen the goal is to provide freshman foundation courses that give students fundamental skills and perspectives. To foster an understanding of the connections among domains of knowledge, these courses will ordinarily be linked or require co-registration.

##### 2. Diversification requirement (minimum 19 credits)

- Arts, Humanities and Literature
- Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences

The diversification requirement is intended to ensure that every student has a broad exposure to different domains of academic knowledge, while at the same time allowing flexibility for students with different goals and interests. Students should have a sense of coherence in their education. This is achieved not by imposing uniformity, but by helping students discover connections as they pursue their own interests and goals.

## **B. Special UHM Graduation Requirements**

1. Focus requirements which identify important additional skills and discourses which can be provided through courses across the curriculum, such as written and oral communication, ethical concerns, and Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific issues.

2.[ Final wording on the "Hawaiian/Second Language Requirement" to be added after April UHM Faculty Senate meeting.]

## **C. College Requirements**

Each college or School determines the number of credits required for degrees involving departments and programs located within it. The college or school may establish additional general education requirements.

## **D. Departments**

The academic major is viewed as an anchor for bringing coherence to a student's educational experience. Most students are particularly motivated in regard to their education in chosen majors. Thus a student's major department should be a locus for the student's experience of coherence; it should provide academic guidance so that each student's general education choices, major courses, and electives complement one another. It is intended that departments develop mentoring plans to guide students through their academic program.