UHM General Education Plan

General education requirements are designed to help students acquire knowledge, skills, and ways of thinking that provide a foundation for lifelong learning. The UHM requirements reflect the unique resources of UHM: the depth of its Hawaiian assets and the breadth of its multiculturalism. The general education curriculum gives students a global sense of human diversity while paying special attention to the heritages of Hawai'i, the Pacific, and Asia.

There are two components to the document. First, General Education requirements are divided into Core requirements and Special UHM Graduate Requirements. Core requirements include Foundation courses and Diversification requirements. Special UHM Graduation Requirements include Focus requirements and Hawaiian or second language.

A. UHM Core Requirements

1. Foundations requirement (12 credits)

Foundation courses are intended to give students skills and perspectives that are fundamental to undertaking higher education. . . . Courses taken to fulfill the foundations requirement may not be used to fulfill Diversification and Focus requirements.

All full-time UHM students are expected to fulfill foundations requirements before achieving sophomore standing.

a. Written Communication: 3 cr.

Students will be introduced to the rhetorical, conceptual, and stylistic demands of writing at the college level; courses give instruction in composing processes, search strategies, and composing from sources. This course also provides students with experiences in the library and on the Internet and enhances their skills in accessing various types of primary and secondary materials.

b. Symbolic Reasoning: 3 cr.

Courses fulfilling this requirement will expose students to the beauty and power of formal systems, as well as to their clarity and precision; courses will not focus solely on computational skills. Students should understand the concept of proof as a chain of inferences. They should be able to apply formal rules or algorithms. They should also be able to engage in hypothetical reasoning. In addition, the course should aim to develop the ability of students to use appropriate symbolic techniques in the context of problem solving, and in the presentation and critical evaluation of evidence.

c. Global and Multicultural Perspectives: 2 courses, 6 cr.

Global and Multicultural Perspectives courses provide thematic treatments of global processes and cross-cultural interactions from a variety of perspectives. Students will gain a sense of human development from pre-history to modern times through consideration of narratives and artifacts of and from diverse cultures. At least one component of each of these courses will involve the indigenous cultures of Hawai'i, the Pacific, and Asia.