

LAS Guidelines on General Education Course Review

April 26, 2016

Since 1989, when the campus General Education requirements went into effect, the number of undergraduate courses approved for General Education credit has grown from a handful of courses to more than 500. The number of approved courses is uneven across categories—for example, about 70 courses are approved for Quantitative Reasoning, while over 200 are approved for Humanities and the Arts.

The LAS General Education Committee is reluctant to continue adding courses to categories that are already quite large, such as Humanities and the Arts and Social and Behavioral Sciences. The Committee has therefore developed the following guidelines for LAS units submitting courses for General Education approval.

- Areas where courses are particularly encouraged include those submitted for Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures and Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures.
- Courses that require a prerequisite, particularly another General Education course, ordinarily will not be considered for General Education credit.
- A course submitted for approval in any category may be declined for General Education credit if the course is not sufficiently general and appears to serve primarily a specialized audience.
- Generally, only 100- or 200-level courses will be considered for General Education credit. Courses at the 300- and 400-level may be considered for approval in the categories of Advanced Composition or Quantitative Reasoning II. No courses that permit graduate students to enroll will be considered for General Education credit.
- Only courses that are or will be offered on a frequent and predictable basis (i.e., once every semester or every year) will be considered for General Education approval. Units are encouraged to review their General Education course offerings to make sure courses continue to be offered on a regular basis.
- Courses that are offered face-to-face or in both online and face-to-face formats will receive priority over courses offered solely online. Courses taught solely online must include opportunities for students to develop their communication skills.
- Courses that are regularly taught by tenure-track or specialized faculty will receive priority over courses that are taught by teaching assistants or visiting faculty.
- Any course submitted for General Education review should include a current syllabus that conforms to the LAS guidelines available here:
<http://www.las.illinois.edu/faculty/courses/documents/GuidelinesonLASCourseSyllabi.pdf>