UB VII-5.6. Undergraduate General Education Policy

Policy required by COMAR 13B.02.02.16 and 13B.06.01.00-10 and USM Board of Regents III 7.00
Revision approved by University Faculty Senate, 5/25/16; revisions May 11, 2022
Approved by Provost, 5/25/16; revisions 5/18/22
Approved by President, 6/17/16; 6/18 2022
Approved by Chancellor, 6/22/16

Responsible Administrator: Interim Provost Catherine F. Andersen, Ph.D. Policy contact: Associate Provost, Office of the Provost

Effective date: August 15, 2016 for new students; continuing students may opt-in. Assessment of General Education and its policies will be annual. May 22 revision effective August 15, 2022 for new students.

General Education Requirements (38 credits)

Arts and Humanities (6 credits)
Students must complete one course from each of two different disciplines.

Upper-Division Ethics (3 credits)

Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)
Students must complete one course from each of two different disciplines.

Mathematics (3 credits)

English Composition (6 credits)
English Composition (3)

Upper Division Writing (3)

Biological and Physical Sciences (7 credits)
Students must complete two courses; one of the two must be a laboratory course.

General Education electives (7 credits)

General Education Mission and Definition

General education supports the undergraduate learning goals of the University of Baltimore. It encourages active learning, critical thinking and independent investigation and helps students assume responsibility for their own intellectual development. General education requirements are designed to provide a broad exposure to topics and disciplines that expand understanding of self. General education places this understanding in a context of history, culture and current thinking. It directs this understanding outward to engagement in the communities in which students live and work, from the local to the global.

Arts & Humanities

Arts & Humanities courses consider what it means to be human and cultivate empathy with peoples across cultures and time. Courses in this area encourage the critical investigation of value systems and apply aesthetic frameworks to a variety of intellectual and artistic issues. Students produce work in multiple genres, and study texts from disciplines including literature, philosophy, history, art history, design, and the performing arts.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who satisfy this requirement will demonstrate that they are able to do all of the following:

1. Using appropriate concepts and vocabulary, describe how a text, historical event, philosophical concept, performance, work of art, or other artifact provides insight into the human condition.
2. Illustrate how historical, philosophical, or cultural context influences the creation or interpretation of texts, artworks, artifacts or concepts.

Upper-Division Ethics

Ethics courses require students to explore and critically examine moral and ethical issues as they arise in their personal, professional and public lives. Students will gain an understanding of major moral frameworks, how they inform ethical decision-making, and their distinctive importance in the human experience.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who satisfy this requirement will demonstrate that they are able to ~~meet~~ do all of the following:

1. Identify moral and ethical issues as distinct from legal, social, economic and practical issues;
2. Using appropriate concepts and vocabulary, provide reasoning and support for a moral and ethical conclusion;
3. Apply and critically evaluate standards of ethical conduct in a professional field based on their underlying moral justification.

Mathematics

Students will apply mathematical and scientific methods in problem-solving. Coursework in this area will build upon the content standards, essential skills, and knowledge statements developed for mathematics in the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards to engage students in using technology, modeling, and oral and written communication to express fundamental and more advanced concepts, theories, and issues within their fields of study.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who satisfy this requirement will demonstrate that they are able to do all of the following

1. Interpret mathematical models given verbally, or by formulas, graphs, or tables, and draw inferences from them
2. Use arithmetical, algebraic, geometric, technological or statistical methods to solve problems.
3. Recognize and use connections within mathematics and between mathematics and other disciplines.

English Composition

Composition courses promote the value of writing as a tool for learning, thinking, and communicating. In a portfolio-based environment, students develop the rhetorical tools necessary to compose effective documents in academic, professional, and civic discourse.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who satisfy this requirement will demonstrate that they are able to do all of the following:

1. Apply effective writing strategies to produce revised, polished documents;
2. Interpret written documents, including their own, based on audience, purpose, context, and genre;
3. Employ appropriate format, structure, and style conventions.

English Composition: Upper-Division Writing

Composition courses promote the value of writing as a tool for learning, thinking, and communicating. In a portfolio-based environment, students develop the critical reading, research, and rhetorical tools necessary to compose effective documents in academic, professional, and civic discourse, participating actively in their chosen field.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who satisfy this requirement will demonstrate that they are able to meet the English Composition SLOs and all of the following:

4. Produce a variety of texts for multiple purposes, audiences, and genres in their field.
5. Engage in recursive reading, writing, and research processes to participate in the meaning- making of their field.

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Social and behavioral sciences courses examine the ways in which individuals, groups, institutions, or segments of societies behave, function, and influence one another. They introduce students to the variety of methods to collect, analyze, interpret, and apply qualitative and quantitative data as related to social phenomena and individual behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who satisfy this requirement will demonstrate that they are able to do all of the following:

1. Interpret events or actions of individuals, cultures, society or the institutions within which they interact using concepts of social/behavioral science by applying major concepts, theories, or models within the field of study.
2. Analyze evidence using critical thinking skills based on research methods utilized in the social and behavioral science fields.

Biological & Physical Sciences

Biological and physical sciences courses examine living systems and the physical universe. They introduce students to the variety of methods used to collect, interpret, and apply scientific data, and to an understanding of the relationship between scientific theory and application.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who satisfy this requirement will demonstrate that they are able to do all of the following:

1. Access specific scientific information on a topic related to course material.
2. Discriminate among sources of information through the use of peer reviewed and non- refereed literature or through the discernment of scientific and non-scientific material.
3. Demonstrate comprehension of the quantitative aspects of science and of hypothesis construction and testing through observation and evaluation of data.

Lab courses only:

4. Use technology to gather and process data.
5. Access specific scientific information on a topic related to course material.
6. Discriminate among sources of information through the use of peer reviewed and non- refereed literature or through the discernment of scientific and non-scientific material.
7. Demonstrate comprehension of the quantitative aspects of science and of hypothesis construction and testing through observation and evaluation of data.