

The following motion was passed at Faculty Senate meeting #229 on February 5, 2018:

Motion:

The UAF Faculty Senate recommends the UA Faculty Alliance consider the following modification to University Regulation R10.04.040, subsection A:

Effective: Fall 2018

Rationale: The language in Board of Regents Regulation regarding the disciplinary categories has not been revised since at least 1996. The descriptions in the regulations no longer clearly describe the GER categories in a way that is acceptable to the corresponding academic areas, and in some cases (e.g., humanities) the descriptions combine two categories.

While we recognize that separating courses into strict disciplinary buckets may not be ideal, revising these disciplinary descriptions to work better while the three universities continue to work to revise their GER would be helpful.

In addition, having up-to-date language would be helpful to the General Education Requirements & Core committee (GER&C), since the language in the university regulations is the basis on which the UAF GER&C determines which courses are allowable into GER buckets.

The language provided in this motion was initially developed by the statewide General Education Learning Objectives committee in 2012–2014 and revised by the second iteration of the General Education Learning Objectives committee in 2015. The revisions were sent to Faculty Alliance in the report “Report on General Education Alignment across the UA System: A Proposal for Student Success” in May 2015 but were not forwarded to the president for consideration at that time. Simultaneously, this language was being considered in the UAF General Education Revitalization Committee; basically the same language, with the exception of the change from Quantitative Skills to Mathematics, was submitted to UAF Faculty Senate as part of the report “Proposal for Common Baccalaureate Requirements and General Baccalaureate Education at UAF” in March 2014.

Specific commentary on the consequences of the revision of each of the disciplinary categories:

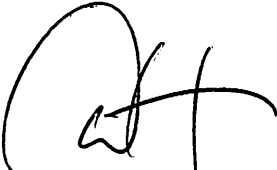
- Oral Communication Skills:
 - Updates the language to meet the current practice in the discipline; no obvious course changes required by this language.
- Written Communication Skills
 - Updates the language to meet the current practice in the discipline; no obvious course changes required by this language.
- Quantitative Skills/Mathematics
 - This change would require UAA to change the title of one of its GER buckets. At all three universities, all courses that satisfy this GER requirement are mathematics and statistics courses (viewing statistics as a subfield of mathematics); this change would codify this current practice in university regulation.
- Natural Sciences
 - The proposed change *could* be interpreted to mean that natural sciences GER courses must include a laboratory to satisfy the “practice” component. All UAF GER natural science courses have a lab.

- Arts
 - Currently, the description of arts courses is confusingly smushed in with the description of humanities courses. The new description would allow 'skills' classes into the GER (e.g., painting, drawing, sculpting, movie making, acting....) as long as there was some 'academic discipline' content. Currently only fine arts appreciation and fine arts history classes are allowed. Note that we choose the name "arts" rather than "fine arts" to recognize that there are various arts disciplines, such as creative writing, that are not traditionally recognized as "fine arts".
- Humanities
 - This change clearly separates arts from humanities. Note that specific fields not mentioned; this change to the language leaves open the contentious question of whether History is a social science (as at UAF) or a humanities (as at UAA).
- Social Sciences
 - Removing the requirement that social sciences be "broad survey courses", which is required of no other category, would allow a greater diversity of acceptable GER courses in the social sciences.



 Chris Fallen, UAF Faculty Senate President

The Chancellor: Approves Disapproves



 Daniel M. White, UAF Chancellor

Date: 2/13/18

See the attached policy changes:

[[]] = Deletion
Bold = Additions

R10.04.040. General Education Requirements.

A. Categories for the Common Core of General Education Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees

1. Oral Communication Skills

Courses that fulfill this requirement [[are those which emphasize the acquisition of English language skills in orally communicating ideas in an organized fashion through instruction accompanied by practice]] **provide guided practice in using oral communication as a tool for communicating ideas and responding to diverse and changing audiences.**

2. Written Communication Skills

Courses that fulfill this requirement [[are those which emphasize the acquisition of English language skills in organizing and communicating.]] **provide guided practice in using writing as a tool for communicating ideas and responding to diverse and changing audiences.**

3. ~~[[Quantitative Skills]]~~ **Mathematics**

Courses that fulfill this requirement [[are those which emphasize the development and application of quantitative problem-solving skills as well as skills in the manipulation and/or evaluation of quantitative data.]] **expose students to the theory, methods, and practice of mathematics as an intellectual discipline, rather than focusing on rote computation.**

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4. Natural Sciences

Courses that fulfill this requirement [[are those that provide the student with broad exposure and include general introduction to the theory, methods, and disciplines of the natural sciences.]] **introduce the student to the theory, methods, and practice of the natural sciences, integrating basic knowledge and disciplinary methodologies.**

5. Arts

Courses that fulfill this requirement introduce the student to the methods and context of the arts as academic disciplines as opposed to those that only emphasize acquisition of skills.

~~[[5]]~~6. Humanities

Courses that fulfill this requirement [[are those that provide the student with an introduction to the visual arts and performing arts as academic disciplines as opposed to those that emphasize acquisition of skills. General humanities courses introduce the student to the humanistic fields of language, arts, literature, history, and philosophy within the context of their traditions.]] **introduce the student to the theory, methods,**

and practice of the humanities, integrating basic knowledge and disciplinary methodologies.

[[6]]7. Social Sciences

Courses that fulfill this requirement [[are broad survey courses which provide the student with exposure to the theory, methods, and data of the social sciences.]]— introduce the student to the theory, methods, and practice of the social sciences, integrating basic knowledge and disciplinary methodologies.