



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Current and Proposed General Education

October 20, 2022

What is AB 928?

AB 928 is an Assembly Bill titled The Student Transfer Reform Act introduced by Assemblymember Marc Berman (District 24) during the 2021 legislative session and signed into law by Governor Newsom on November 6, 2021.

As noted on Assemblymember Berman’s website¹, AB 928 intends to smooth student transfer processes through three actions:

1. Creation of a singular lower division general education pathway that meets transfer admission to both California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC)
2. Creation of an Intersegmental Implementation Committee “to provide an entity to facilitate intersegmental coordination and greater state-level accountability for implementation of the Associate Degree for Transfer
3. Placing all California community college students on an Associate Degree for Transfer pathway if students declare a goal of transfer and such a pathway exists for their major; it includes an opt-out for students

What does AB 928 say about the required singular lower division general education pathway?

The bill requires the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS), composed of leadership from academic senates of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California, to “establish a singular lower division general education pathway that meets the academic requirements necessary for transfer admission to the California State University and the University of California” by May 31, 2023. In the event members of ICAS cannot come to agreement to establish the pathway called for, “the respective administrative bodies of those segments” shall establish the required pathway by December 31, 2023.

The bill also requires that the singular lower division general education pathway “be the only lower division general education pathway used to determine eligibility and sufficient academic preparation for transfer into both segments, and to not lengthen the time-to-degree or include more units than those required under the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum on July 1, 2021.”

How many units will comprise the singular lower division general education pathway required by AB 928?

The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) required 34 semester units as of July 1, 2021. As a result, the singular lower division general education pathway required by AB 928

¹ <https://a24.asmdc.org/2021-bills-0>

cannot be more than 34 semester units. Although IGETC for CSU was 37 total units as it included Oral Communication, Assemblymember Berman’s office confirmed that the legislative intent was to not exceed the 34 units currently comprising IGETC.

Will IGETC be used as the singular lower division general education pathway required by AB 928?

No. The new singular lower division general education pathway will be developed by the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates through dialog between academic senate leaders of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California.

How will ICAS decide on the singular lower division general education pathway required by AB 928?

ICAS organized a subcommittee which included three faculty members each from CCC, CSU, and UC as well as advisory members consisting of students, articulation officers, and administrators to develop a recommendation, which was brought back to ICAS and accepted in May 2022 as the proposal to be vetted across the three systems. As feedback is being provided by faculty within the respective segments, support for or concerns about the singular general education, currently called CalGETC, as proposed will be evaluated by the subcommittee, which will then make a final recommendation to ICAS. As part of this process, the faculty on ICAS all agreed that with the 34-semester unit limit set by the legislation, all segments would need to compromise in order to reach agreement on a general education pathway that prepares students for CSU and UC.

What is the deadline for development of the singular general education pathway required by AB 928 by ICAS?

AB 928 assigns the responsibility for developing the singular general education pathway for transfer to CSU and UC to the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) and requires it be completed on or before May 31, 2023. In the event that the CCC, CSU, and UC faculty comprising ICAS fail to agree on a singular general education pathway, the “respective administrative bodies of those segments” shall develop the pathway on or before December 31, 2023.

What is the proposed singular general education pathway required by AB 928?

The CalGETC pathway as proposed by ICAS is as follows:

CalGETC Area	Subject	Courses/Units
1 – English Communication	English Composition Critical Thinking and Composition Oral Communication	1 course (3 units) 1 course (3 units) 1 course (3 units)
2	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	1 course (3 units)
3 – Arts and Humanities	Arts Humanities	1 course (3 units) 1 course (3 units)
4	Social and Behavioral Sciences	2 courses (6 units)
5	Physical Science Biological Science Laboratory (for Phys/Bio Science course)	1 course (3 units) 1 course (3 units) (1 unit)
N/A	Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (<i>CSU upper division GE</i>)	-
6	Language other than English (LOTE) (<i>Currently UC only, carries no units</i>)	-
7	Ethnic Studies	1 course (3 units)
Total Courses (units)		11 courses (34 units)

What are key differences between CalGETC as proposed and IGETC and CSU GE Breadth as the existing general education patterns used for transfer to UC and CSU respectively?

- Oral communication was not previously included in IGETC, but is included in CalGETC
- The Arts and Humanities requirement is reduced from three courses to two courses
- The Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement is reduced from three courses to two courses
- Lifelong Learning and Self-Development will be removed as CSU lower division GE requirement; it is not included in CalGETC
- Ethnic Studies will fall in a new, separate area

Why is there no Lifelong Learning and Self-Development requirement in CalGETC like there has been in CSU GE Breadth?

Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (LL&SD) is a part of CSU GE Breadth but has not been part of IGETC. The faculty on the ICAS Special Committee on AB 928 agreed that all three public higher education segments would have to compromise to achieve the mandates of AB 928, so CSU chose to approach LL&SD in a different way. While the Academic Senate CSU leadership first said that LL&SD could be a graduation requirement, some CSU campus academic senates did not agree with this

approach. Conversation about whether to include LL&SD as a graduation requirement or as an upper division general education is still ongoing amongst CSU faculty and its academic senate.

Why is Language Other Than English (LOTE) being removed from IGETC?

The LOTE requirement for UC has always been a proficiency requirement that students could meet with high school or community college coursework when transferring. It was included in the IGETC pattern to ensure that community college students transferring to UC met it through coursework if they hadn't already met it through high school coursework. UC intends to shift the proficiency requirement to a graduation requirement that will continue to be met by high school and community college courses.

There is no American Institutions requirement included in CalGETC. Why is CSU removing this requirement?

The American Institutions requirement currently is and continues to be a CSU graduation requirement. ASCCC is not aware of any CSU intentions to change the American Institutions requirement. It will not be included as an area or element of CalGETC just as a Language Other Than English will not be included; each is a graduation requirement within the CSU and UC respectively. While not included in the CalGETC pathway, continued communication to students about the CSU and UC graduation requirements, particularly those that can be met through coursework at California community colleges, will be important.

What opportunities for input into the singular lower division pathway required by AB 928 do faculty from the three systems have?

This may vary by system, but for California community college faculty, ASCCC opened a feedback survey late August through the end of September. ASCCC also hosted six webinars focused on AB 928 and general education; recordings are available at www.asccc.org (see past events) for those who couldn't attend the webinars when they were scheduled. Finally, delegates will have an opportunity to vote to support or oppose CalGETC as proposed during resolutions voting at the ASCCC Fall Plenary Session being held Nov. 3-5, 2022.

What courses will be included in CalGETC? What courses currently in CSU GE Breadth will be excluded?

Given that only the framework is being vetted at this point, the courses to be included or excluded from CalGETC are yet to be determined. Once ICAS convenes in early 2023 and determines whether CalGETC is supported by faculty in all three segments, the process of developing guidance can be developed and initiated.

What will be the course submission process and timelines for CalGETC? Will courses currently approved for IGETC and CSU GE Breadth areas automatically be included in CalGETC?

The process for reviewing and approving courses is a matter of implementation that is yet to be discussed. It will be determined at a later point. Recognizing the workload and length of time it takes for courses to be approved using current processes, ASCCC will advocate for an expedient process that is inclusive of currently approved courses where possible.

Will the future implementation of CalGETC impact the general education patterns required for local associate degrees?

No, CalGETC will not impact local GE patterns directly. However, based on discussion about CalGETC and general education before, during, and after Curriculum Institute in July 2022 as well in recognition that associate degree general education requirements have not been reviewed holistically in more than twenty years, ASCCC has proposed revisions to the general education framework for alignment with CalGETC. Such an alignment would reduce the confusion caused by different general education patterns.

How will minimum local associate degree general education requirements be aligned with CalGETC?

CalGETC as proposed includes six areas: English Communication, Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning, Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Physical and Biological Science, and Ethnic Studies. Title 5 §55063 requirements currently require a minimum of 18 semester (27 quarter) units of general education, to be taken as one course each in the areas of Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Humanities, Language and Rationality: English Composition, and Language and Rationality: Communication and Analytical Thinking. Additionally, title 5 §55063 as revised in July 2021 also requires students to demonstrate competence in reading, written expression, and mathematics, plus successful completion of an ethnic studies course. The alignment of minimum local associate degree general education requirements involves a shift of categories as well as inclusion of the required competencies as courses.

What is the proposed local associate degree general education framework?

Area	Subject	Units (minimum)	Current title 5
1	English Composition	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 § 55063(c)(4)(A) and (d)(1) <i>Meets English/reading competency requirement and intent of AB 705</i>
	Oral Communication and Critical Thinking	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 § 55063(c)(4)(B) <i>The current title 5 regulations only require one course in Communication and Analytical Thinking. This proposed pattern separates the requirement into two areas.</i>
2	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	3 semester/4 quarter units+	Title 5 § 55063(c)(4)(B) and (d)(2) <i>The current title 5 regulations only require one course in Communication and Analytical Thinking. This proposed pattern separates the requirement into two areas</i> <i>Meets the math competency requirement and intent of AB 705</i>
3	Arts and Humanities	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 § 55063(c)(3)
4	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 § 55063(c)(2)
5	Natural Sciences	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 § 55063(c)(1)
	<i>Lifelong Learning and Self-Development</i>	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Not required in current title 5 regulations</i> <i>CCCs could require it for local associate and baccalaureate degrees</i>
6	<i>Language other than English (LOTE)</i>	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Not required in current title 5 regulations</i>
7	Ethnic Studies	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 § 55063(d)(3)
	Total Units	21 semester units	

* indicates transfer-level course required

+ indicates transfer-level course expected with limited exceptions

Why is there a lower division general education pathway being proposed for California community college baccalaureate degrees?

For California community colleges currently offering baccalaureate degrees, there has been frustration that students must take either 34 (IGETC) or 39 (CSU GE Breadth) semester units of lower division general education when the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) only

requires 27 lower division general education units. Also, IGETC and CSU GE Breadth, the two lower division general education pattern options currently required for students in California’s community college baccalaureate degree programs, will be obsolete once CalGETC goes into effect. To address these concerns, delegates at the Spring 2022 Plenary Session passed ASCCC Resolution S22 09.03², which calls for ASCCC to work with the Chancellor’s Office to develop a pathway specific to CCC baccalaureate programs. It makes sense to align the baccalaureate degree lower division general education framework with the proposed CalGETC and associate degree general education frameworks, and to overlap the baccalaureate lower division general education requirements with associate degree general education requirements as much as possible. The result is an aligned framework that includes an additional six units beyond the 21 required for associate degrees (to reach the ACCJC required minimum of 27 lower division general education units for baccalaureate degrees), to be taken from any of the general education areas.

What is the proposed lower division general education pathway for CCC baccalaureate degrees?

Proposed CCC Baccalaureate Degree Lower Division General Education Pathway

Area	Subject	Units (minimum)	Current Title 5
1	English Composition Oral Communication and Critical Thinking	3 semester/4 quarter units* 3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 §55063(c)(4)(A) and (d)(1) Title 5 §55063(c)(4)(B)
2	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	3 semester/4 quarter units+	Title 5 §55063(c)(4)(B) and (d)(2)
3	Arts and Humanities	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 §55063(c)(3)
4	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 §55063(c)(2)
5	Natural Sciences	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 §55063(c)(1)
	<i>Lifelong Learning and Self-Development</i>	<i>optional</i>	
6	<i>Language other than English (LOTE)</i>	<i>optional</i>	
7	Ethnic Studies	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 §55063(d)(3)
	Additional units from any of the above areas	6 semester/8 quarter units	
	<i>Total Units</i>	27 semester units	

* indicates transfer-level course required

+ indicates transfer-level course expected with limited exceptions

² ASCCC Resolution S22 09.02: <https://asccc.org/resolutions/develop-lower-division-ge-pathway-ccc-baccalaureate-degree-programs>

How do the three general education frameworks align with each other?

Three Proposed Pathways Side by Side

Area	Proposed CalGETC Pathway	Proposed CCC Associate Degree GE Pathway	Proposed CCC Baccalaureate Degree GE Pathway (Lower Division)
1	English Composition (3/4) Critical Thinking and Composition (3/4) Oral Communication (3/4)	English Composition (3/4) Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (3/4)	English Composition (3/4) Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (3/4)
2	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (3/4)	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (3/4)	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (3/4)
3	Arts (3/4) Humanities (3/4)	Arts and Humanities (3/4)	Arts and Humanities (3/4)
4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (6/8)	Social and Behavioral Sciences (3/4)	Social and Behavioral Sciences (3/4)
5	Physical Science (3/4) Biological Science (3/4) Laboratory (for Phys/Bio Science) (1/1)	Natural Sciences (3/4)	Natural Sciences (3/4)
	Lifelong Learning and Self-Development <i>Not required (CSU Upper Division GE)</i>	Lifelong Learning and Self-Development <i>Not required in current Title 5 regulations</i>	Lifelong Learning and Self-Development <i>Not required in current Title 5 regulations</i>
6	Language other than English (LOTE) <i>(Currently UC only, carries no units)</i>	Language other than English (LOTE) <i>Not required in current Title 5 regulations</i>	Language other than English (LOTE) <i>Not required in current Title 5 regulations</i>
7	Ethnic Studies (3/4)	Ethnic Studies (3/4)	Ethnic Studies (3/4)
	-	-	Additional units from above areas (6/8)
Total	11 courses (minimum 34 semester units)	Minimum 21 semester units	Minimum 27 semester units