Policy: General Education Requirements

The General Education Requirements (also known as GER) provide structure to your education while giving you the freedom to design an individual academic program.

For more information on General Education Requirements and which courses qualify, go to uwm.edu/academics/ger.cfm

What are General Education Requirements?

The General Education Requirements are intended to give structure to each student's education while providing the student the greatest possible freedom to design an individual academic program. These requirements include two major categories, competency and distribution.

The competency requirements are designed to assure basic proficiency in oral and written communication, quantitative literacy, and foreign language. The GER quantitative literacy Part A and oral and written communications Part A requirements should be completed early in the academic career to ensure acquisition of critical skills for subsequent coursework. Many UWM schools/colleges require completion of part A of those competencies prior to advancing to the professional portion of the major. Completion of the relevant part A competency is also a prerequisite for some intermediate and advanced courses. The distribution requirements are designed to provide students with a broad body of knowledge in the areas of the arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences as a foundation for specialization.

Specific GER requirements are as follows:

Competency Requirements

Oral and Written Communication (OWC) Competency

OWC Part A: Completion of OWC Part A can be demonstrated by satisfying one of the following options:

- earning at least three credits with a grade of C or higher in English 102,* or
• transferring at least three credits with a grade of C or higher in a course equivalent to English 102 or higher level expository writing course,* or
• achieving an appropriate score on the English Placement Test (EPT).

**OWC Part B:** The OWC Part B is satisfied by completing an approved advanced course (at least three credits) with a significant written or oral communication component by students who have completed the Part A requirement.

Courses that count toward the OWC-B requirement may be offered in a variety of disciplines and students are encouraged to choose the course that matches their interests and helps them best meet the requirements of their degrees. The following are courses that count toward the OWC-B:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 509</td>
<td>Art &amp; Design Seminar: (Subtitle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART ED 327</td>
<td>Art Education Theory and Practice: Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE 313</td>
<td>History of Dance in the African Diaspora</td>
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<td>DANCE 314</td>
<td>Contemporary Dance History</td>
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<td>DANCE 315</td>
<td>History of the American Musical Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 201</td>
<td>Strategies for Academic Writing</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 205</td>
<td>Business Writing</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 206</td>
<td>Technical Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 207</td>
<td>Health Science Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 214</td>
<td>Writing in the Professions: (Subtitle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 215</td>
<td>Introduction to English Studies</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 240</td>
<td>Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture: (Subtitle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 430</td>
<td>Advanced Writing Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 431</td>
<td>Topics in Advanced Writing: (Subtitle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSY 220</td>
<td>Positive Psychology in Context: Applications to Learning and Development</td>
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<td>ED PSY 505</td>
<td>Positive Psychology: Theory and Application in Learning Contexts</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXCEDUC 560</td>
<td>Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorders (Sum 2014)</td>
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<td>GEO SCI 637</td>
<td>Planetary Geology</td>
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<tr>
<td>FILM 305</td>
<td>Digital Cinema and the Computer</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 600</td>
<td>Seminar in History: (Subtitle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIN 414</td>
<td>Therap Exercise and Rehab Tech in Athletic Trng (Fall 2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSIC 310</td>
<td>Introduction to World Musics (Fall 2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 476</td>
<td>Professional Role 4: Leading in Complex Systems</td>
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<td>Psych 325</td>
<td>Research Methods in Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIGST 361</td>
<td>Russian and Slavic Folklore</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSSIAN 361</td>
<td>Russian and Slavic Folklore</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEATRE 321</td>
<td>The Theatre: Beginnings Through Realism</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEATRE 322</td>
<td>The Theatre: Modern and Contemporary Period</td>
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**Quantitative Literacy (QL) Competency**

**QL Part A.** Completion of QL Part A can be demonstrated by satisfying one of the following options:

• earning at least three credits with a grade of C or higher in Math 103 (formerly 106), 105, 175 or equivalent courses,* or
• achieving a placement code of at least 30 on the mathematics placement test.
QL Part B. The QL Part B is satisfied by completing at least one approved QL-B course (at least three credits) as decided by the major. QL-B courses make significant use of quantitative tools in the context of other course material. The following are courses that count toward the QL-B:

AFRICOL 220 Introduction to Statistics in Africology
ART 422 Design Methodologies: Process, Communication, and Theory
ART 604 Professional Practices
ART ED 328 Art Education Theory and Practice: Secondary
BIO SCI 201 Human Structure and Function
BUS ADM 210 Introduction to Management Statistics (Fall 2014)
BUS ADM 211 Business Scholars: Intro to Management Statistics (Fall 2014)
COMMUN 370 Quantitative Research Commun (Sum 2014)
DANCE 251 Laban Movement Analysis I
ECON 210 Economic Statistics
ELECENG 420 Random Signals and Systems
HIST 595 The Quantitative Analysis of Historical Data
KIN 270 Statistics in the Health Professions: Theory and Practice
MATH 116 College Algebra
MATH 176 Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers II
MATH 205 Introductory Finite Mathematics
MATH 211 Survey in Calculus and Analytic Geometry
MATH 221 Honors Calculus
MATH 231 Calculus and Analytic Geometry
MTHSTAT 215 Elementary Statistical Analysis (Fall 2013)
MUSIC 225 Materials of Theory III
MATLENG 410 Mechanical Behavior of Materials
PHILOS 211 Elementary Logic
PHYSICS 309 Physics III: Modern Physics
POL SCI 390 Political Data Analysis
PSYCH 210 Psychological Statistics
SOCIOL 261 Introduction to Statistical Thinking in Sociology

* These courses may not be taken credit/no credit if they are to be used to satisfy the OWC-A requirement or QL-A requirement.

Foreign Language Requirement Completion of the foreign language requirement can be demonstrated by satisfying one of the following options:

- complete with passing grades, prior to enrollment at UWM, at least two consecutive years of high school-level instruction in a single foreign language, or
- complete with passing grades at least two consecutive semesters (minimum of 6 credits) of college level instruction in a single foreign language, or
- demonstrate foreign language ability equivalent to two semesters of college-level instruction by means of a satisfactory score on an approved placement, proficiency, departmental or other appropriate examination.

Exceptions to GER

Students who entered UWM as freshmen and/or earned transferable credit prior to September 2013 are not responsible for the Oral and Written Communication Part B or the Quantitative Literacy Part B.

Students who entered UWM as freshmen and/or earned transferable credit prior to September, 1999 are not responsible for the GER foreign language competency. However, individual
schools and colleges may require completion of higher level foreign language courses; students are strongly encouraged to check with their advisors and/or review their Academic Requirements report on PAWS.

In general, second degree candidates from an accredited institution and students whose first semester in a degree program at an accredited institution predates September 1986, are not subject to the General Education Requirements.

All degree programs have specific requirements beyond GER. Consult with an academic advisor to design an appropriate course of study.

**Distribution Requirements**

You can satisfy the distribution requirements by successfully completing courses in the following areas:

- **Arts**: Three credits in a course about the history, philosophy, theory, or practice of the creative and interpretive arts (e.g., visual arts, dance, music, theatre, creative writing).
- **Humanities**: A total of six credits in at least two courses.
- **Natural Sciences**: A total of six credits in at least two courses. At least one course must include laboratory or field experience involving the generation and testing of data, and the application of concepts and knowledge to the solution of problems.
- **Social Sciences**: A total of six credits in at least two courses.
- **Cultural Diversity**: Three credits in a course relating to the study of life experiences of African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, American Indians or Asian Americans. Many, but not all, courses which satisfy Cultural Diversity also satisfy one of the required distribution areas. (You will need to satisfy this requirement if you started attending UWM in fall 1989 or thereafter.)

**Cultures and Communities (CC)**

Students may choose the Cultures and Communities option to satisfy their GER distribution requirements. CC courses emphasize diversity and cross-cultural literacy, multicultural arts, global studies, and the cultural contexts of science, health care, and technology. A Service Learning course is also required. Students who complete the CC program receive the Cultures and Communities Certificate upon graduation. For more information, contact the Cultures and Communities Program, cc.uwm.edu, 414-229-5960.

**GER Course List**

Courses which have been approved as satisfying the GER distribution requirements are listed on the Courses Approved for GER Distribution pages. A course can be counted in only one of the main distribution areas (Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences or Social Sciences), but may also satisfy the Cultural Diversity requirement if it is on the approved list.

Consult the Schedule of Classes to determine specific courses being offered this semester. Courses which satisfy the GER distribution requirements are annotated as follows directly below each course number:
• (A) = satisfies Arts requirement
• (CD,A) = satisfies Arts/Cultural Diversity requirement
• (HU) = satisfies Humanities requirement
• (CD,HU) = satisfies Humanities/Cultural Diversity requirement
• (NS) = satisfies Natural Sciences requirement
• (NS+) = satisfies Natural Sciences lab/fieldwork requirement
• (SS) = satisfies Social Sciences requirement
• (CD,SS) = satisfies Social Sciences/Cultural Diversity requirement

Consult with your academic advisor if you have questions about the General Education Requirements.