

## General Education Requirements (GER) Instructions

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.

### How to look for GER's

1. Review your Office 365 email, Navigate email or Navigate note for your fall class choices which may have GER's on them.
2. Go to the schedule of classes: <https://catalog.uwm.edu/course-search/>
3. Select a semester (Fall).
4. Select a campus (Milwaukee).
5. Select a level (Undergraduate).
6. Scroll down to advance search options to see GER-General Education Requirements.
7. Check the GER subject your advisor has suggested (HU, SS, A, NS) on your email or Navigate note.
8. Press the search button above advance search.
9. Review 100 -199 level choices only.
10. Click on the class to see more details (Lecture, Discussion & Times)
11. Now that you know how to find GER's, you can go to your PAWS account and add your GER's.

**LEC** = Lecture   **DIS** = Discussion section (Most lectures have a discussion attached)   **LAB** = Lab section (Some lectures have a lab attached)

**Meeting Days:** M = Monday, T = Tuesday, W = Wednesday, R = Thursday, F = Friday, S = Saturday

**Prerequisite (P)** = A course in which a student is required to earn credit prior to being allowed to enroll in a subsequent higher-level course. A prerequisite course may not be taken for credit subsequent to the earning of credit in the higher-level course.

### Coding Key

- A**      Also applies towards Arts (A) General Education Requirement.
- HU**     Also applies towards Humanities (HU) General Education Requirement.
- NS**     Also applies towards the Natural Sciences (NS) General Education Requirement.
- NS+**    Also applies towards the Natural Sciences Lab (NS+) General Education Requirement.
- SS**     Also applies towards Social Sciences (SS) General Education Requirement.

**OWCA** Also applies towards the Oral and Written Communication Part A (OWC-A) General Education Requirement. **English**

**QLA** Also applies towards the Quantitative Literacy Part A (QL-A) General Education Requirement. **Math**

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.

### **Distribution Requirements**

Courses taken for distribution provide the general educational background for each student. The distribution requirements comprise course choices from the following knowledge areas:

- **The Arts:** Three credits in a course in the history, philosophy, theory, or practice of the creative and interpretive arts (e.g., visual arts, dance, music, and theatre).
- **The Humanities:** A total of 6 credits in at least two courses.
- **The Natural Sciences:** A total of 6 credits in at least two courses. At least one course must include laboratory or field experience illustrating the generation and testing of data and the application of concepts and knowledge to the solution of problems.
- **The Social Sciences:** A total of 6 credits in at least two courses.
- **Cultural Diversity:** All UWM students must earn this GER (as of fall 1989) to complete their distribution requirements, 3 credits pertaining to the study of the life experiences of African Americans, Latino/Hispanic Americans, American Indians, or Asian Americans.

**\*Each School/College have additional GER Standard Distribution Requirements.**

A list of GER Standard Distribution courses may be found online at [uwm.edu/schedule/](http://uwm.edu/schedule/). Individual schools and colleges may have limitations on what GER courses from other schools and colleges can be counted; students should check with their advisor.