

COS General Education Framework

AA/AS Requirements for Graduation

The Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree will be awarded to students upon the satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

- A. A minimum of 60 units of college-level courses** (numbered from 1- 299 or otherwise designated college-level), at least 12 of which must be taken in residence at COS, with a “C” (2.0) average. These 60 units include General Education, major and elective courses.
- B. Completion of all courses required for the desired major** with a grade of “C” or better in each course, or “P” if the course is taken on a pass-no pass basis (see AA/AS degree section of the current catalog for details).
- C. Complete 25 units of General Education as listed below.**

GE Area #	Title	Minimum Units
1A	English Composition	3
1B	Oral Communication & Critical Thinking	3
2	Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning	3 [^]
3	Arts & Humanities	3
4	Social & Behavioral Sciences	3
5	Natural Sciences	3
6	Ethnic Studies	3
7	Lifelong Learning & Holistic Development	3 [*]
8	Information Literacy	0 – 1 ^{**}

[^] AAC students may qualify for an academic adjustment of an approved math substitution to satisfy the math requirement. The [math substitution process](#) is available through the AAC.

^{*}(1) Veterans with an approved DD-214 or military transcript showing completion of basic training may receive 3 units of GE credit through Credit for Prior Learning to fulfill this requirement. (2) Students who have completed a police, fire, or paramedic academy are exempt from this requirement and may complete COS GE requirements with 22 units. (3) Students completing “high-unit” local degrees intended for transfer, as identified in the college catalog (Engineering AS, e.g.), are exempt from this requirement. These students may complete COS GE with 21 units alongside completion of minimum admission requirements for CSU or UC.

GE Committee Approved: 9/27/24

Curriculum Committee Approved: 11/6/24

Academic Senate Approved: 11/13/24

Board of Trustees Approved: TBA

******(1) Students who meet this area via testing may use 1 added unit in the areas above to meet the 25 unit minimum. (2) Nursing and Physical Therapist Assistant students are exempt from this requirement and may complete COS GE requirements with 24 units. (3) Students completing “high-unit” local degrees intended for transfer, as identified in the college catalog (Engineering AS, e.g.), are exempt from this requirement. These students may complete COS GE with 21 units alongside completion of minimum admission requirements for CSU or UC.

******* Approved Courses listed below are current as of the Board of Trustees approval date for this Framework. Courses approved for each area are regularly updated, and the most current and accurate list of approved courses can be found in the [COS Catalog](#).

1A. English Composition (3 units)

GELO: Students will be able to express ideas clearly in writing and intentionally engage with and analyze the audiences, genres, and purposes of written expression across multiple expressive modes and styles.

Area Description: This area focuses on the development of academic reading, writing, and research skills. Students learn to develop written arguments by using active reading strategies, working through the writing process, and improving information literacy. Students will learn to adapt their arguments for various audiences and writing situations while citing appropriately. *Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.*

Approved Courses^{***}: ENGL 001

1B. Oral Communication & Critical Thinking (3 units)

GELO: Students will demonstrate the ability to explore problems through research, interpretation, and critical thinking by applying qualitative reasoning skills and be able to express the results to others in prepared and purposeful communication methods.

Area Description: Courses in this area provide an introduction to principles of inductive and deductive processes, the relationship of language to logic, and the abilities to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas through argumentative writing and/or oral communication. The critical thinking component should go beyond critical reasoning or literary criticism; courses in oral communication address the foundational knowledge and practice of public speaking in a democratic society, to enable students to successfully communicate ideas of an informative and persuasive nature in the public speaking mode, and to critically evaluate the speeches of others. *Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses.*

Approved Courses^{***}: AJ 025, BUS/COMM 112, COMM 001, COMM 004, COMM 005,

COMM 007, COMM 008, COMP 005, COMP 006, ENGL 002, JOUR 007, PHIL 020, PHIL 025

2. Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning (3 units)

GELO: Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze data and solve problems using logic, numeric methods and quantitative reasoning skills.

Area Description: Courses in this area focus on mathematics and quantitative reasoning. Additionally, courses approved to fulfill this requirement must address students' ability to develop, present, use, and critique quantitative arguments. *Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and may include mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer languages, and related disciplines.* Courses at the level of Intermediate Algebra or above are college-level courses and may fulfill this requirement.

Approved Courses***: BUS 020, BUS 119, MATH 010, MATH 011, MATH 005, MATH 021, MATH 035, MATH 044, MATH 054, MATH 070, MATH 065, MATH 066, SSCI 025, SSCI 008

3. Arts & Humanities (3 units)

GELO: Students will demonstrate awareness of the ways in which people, in a variety of times and cultures, respond to each other and the world around them through artistic and cultural creation, including the ability to use critical and imaginative thinking to make informed value judgments about creative works and/or create works through diverse forms of expression.

Area Description: *Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation, and develop students' aesthetic understandings and abilities to make value judgments. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.*

Approved Courses***: AJ 123, ANTH 013, ARCH 010, ARCH 020, ARCH 070, ARCH 071, ART 001, ART 002, ART 003, ART 004, ART 005, ART 006, ART 008, ART 066, ASL 001, ASL 002, ASL 003, ASL 004, ASL 005, ASL 006, BUS 185, CINA 031, CINA 032, DRAM 001, DRAM 002, DRAM 003, DRAM 006, ENGL 004, ENGL 010, ENGL 015, ENGL 016, ENGL 018, ENGL 019, ENGL 030, ENGL 031, ENGL 044, ENGL 045, ENGL 046, ESL 090, HIST 004, HIST 005, HIST 017, HIST 018, HIST 023, HIST 025, LING 111, MUS 001, MUS 010, MUS 011, MUS 013, MUS 014, OH 111, PHIL 001, PHIL 005, PHIL 012, PORT 001, PORT 002, SPAN 001, SPAN 002, SPAN 003, SPAN 004, SPAN 012, SPAN 022, SPAN 023, WELD 104

4. Social & Behavioral Science (3 units)

GELO: Students will engage with diverse perspectives and use methods of inquiry in the social sciences to explore social issues and events and formulate an informed opinion or conclusion.

Area Description: Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about how people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

Approved Courses***: AG 001, AGMT 001, AGMT 006, AJ 011, AJ 045, AJ 114, ANTH 010, ANTH 012, ANTH 013, COMM 002, BUS 188, CHLD 039, CHLD 042, COMM 009, ECON 025, ECON 040, ECON 050, ESL 090, ETHN 001, ETHN 002, ETHN 003, ETHN 004, ETHN 010, FASH 141, GEOG 002, HSRV 120, HSRV 122, JOUR 007, JOUR 020, KINE 088, NUTR 020, PHSC 102, POLS 005, POLS 006, POLS 008, POLS 011, POLS 012, POLS 113, PSY 001, PSY 005, PSY 010, PSY 034, PSY 080, PSY 133, SOC 001, SOC 002, SOC 010, SOC 026, SOC 043, SOC 115, SSCI 050

5. Natural Sciences (3 units)

GELO: Students will demonstrate understanding of the physical universe, its lifeforms, and natural phenomena, applying basic scientific principles to their daily lives and evaluating problems according to the scientific method.

Area Description: Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena, helping students appreciate and understand the scientific method and the relationships between science and other human activities. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

Approved Courses***: AG 002, AG 003, AG 004, ANTH 011, ASTR 010, BIOL 001, BIOL 020, BIOL 021, BIOL 022, BIOL 025, BIOL 030, BIOL 031, BIOL 040, CHEM 001, CHEM 010, CHEM 020, GEOG 001, GEOG 005, GEOL 001, GEOL 005, GEOL 012, NUTR 018, OH 001, PHYS 020, PHYS 055, PLSI 001, PSCI 020

6. Ethnic Studies (3 units)

GELO: Students will be able to articulate culturally centered worldviews, intellectual traditions, and lived experiences of people of color in the United States with a critical

analysis of core Ethnic Studies concepts such as racialization, systemic oppression, equity, and intersectionality in one or more of its disciplines focusing on Asian Americans, American Indians, Black Americans, and/or Chicana/os.

Area Description: Courses in Ethnic Studies focus on cultivating critical consciousness, equity and social justice by examining the struggles and resilience of historically marginalized communities. They feature interdisciplinary, intersectional, and anti-racist approaches for dismantling oppressive systems that perpetuate racism and social inequalities and aim to create humanizing and healing academic experiences.

Courses fulfilling this requirement may include baccalaureate-level courses in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies: Black Studies; African American Studies; Africana Studies; Native American Studies; Chicano/a/x; Latino/a/x Studies/La Raza Studies; and Asian American Studies.

Approved Courses***: ETHN 001, ETHN 002, ETHN 003, ETHN 004, ETHN 010

7. Lifelong Learning and Holistic Development (3 units)

GELO: Students will demonstrate awareness of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings capable of learning and setting goals for personal, professional, and academic success.

Area Description: Courses in lifelong learning and holistic development are designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings. Content may include topics such as student success strategies, human behavior, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, social relationships, or other avenues for lifelong learning and development. Courses in this area shall focus on the integrative development of skills, abilities, and dispositions. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in physical education, health and wellness, intercollegiate athletics, psychology, and related disciplines.

Approved Courses***: All DANC, IA, PEAC courses, HW 001, HW 007, PSY 001, SOC 001, NURS 106

8. Information Literacy (0 – 1 unit)

GELO: Students will be able to find, evaluate, and use information from various sources to create new knowledge while respecting intellectual property rights.

Area Description: Courses in information literacy provide an introduction to the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in library science and related disciplines.

Approved Courses***: LIBR 101, LIBR 102, LIBR 103, LIBR 050 or by exam

- D. Completion of the CSU-GE, IGETC, Cal-GETC, or general education requirements at any institutionally accredited university will fulfill the COS general education requirements. Students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from an institutionally accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirements for the associate degree.
- E. Courses may meet multiple requirements, including general education, a major or area of emphasis, and additional requirements when courses are approved to meet multiple requirements. However, one course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas. Students may use the same course to meet a COS general education requirement and to satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California if that segment accepts the course for this purpose.

COS GE Course Review & Approval

The COS GE Committee is a subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee, and is charged with drafting and maintaining the District's general education pattern, policy and plans, and assessing the District's General Education Learning Outcomes. The committee maintains COS GE review criteria and reviews requests for courses to be added or removed from the local GE Areas.

- A. Courses may be approved in no more than two COS GE Areas. Courses listed in more than one area may count for GE completion in only one area.
- B. Courses approved for Cal-GETC are automatically added to the corresponding COS GE Area.
- C. Submission deadlines and review criteria are maintained on the [COS GE Committee website](#). Following GE committee approval, any recommended course approvals or removals are sent forward to the Curriculum Committee, Academic Senate, and Board of Trustees via the governance process.
 - a. Course outlines submitted for GE committee review must be current at the time of submission (approved through the curriculum process within the last 5 years).
 - b. The GE committee will review the courses approved in each area for currency and continued GE area alignment using the [COS GELO Assessment cycle schedule](#).