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San José State University
Academic Senate
Curriculum and Research Committee
September 9, 2024
First Reading

AS 1878

University Policy, Adoption of Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and ~~the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)~~ Writing in the Disciplines (WID)

Rescinds: University Policy S22-5

Whereas: The California State University (CSU) [General Education \(GE\) Requirements Policy](#) was updated to reflect the requirements of AB928 (Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee); and

Whereas: This update led to the reduction and elimination in some GE areas; be it therefore

Resolved: That C&R shall use the consent calendar as a mechanism for updating GE Guidelines; and

Resolved: That C&R submit GE Guidelines to the Senate to be adopted effective Fall 2025; and be it further

Resolved: That the General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI) and Writing in the Disciplines (WID) Guidelines shall undergo a full university review initiated by the General Education Advisory Committee beginning in AY 2034/35. Any recommended changes to the GE Guidelines shall be referred to C&R for deliberation.

Resolved: That the following becomes university policy.

Approved: August 26, 2024

37 Vote: 9-0-0
38 Present: Megan Chang, Marc d'Alarcao, Stefan Frazier, Marie
39 Haverfield, Melinda Jackson, Scott Shaffer, Jessica Trask,
40 Cristina Velarde, Hiu Yung Wong (chair)
41
42 Absent: Sehtej Khehra
43
44 Workload Impact: The university catalog and website will need to be updated.
45 Faculty and staff advisors need to be informed and trained
46 on the new guidelines.
47
48 Financial Impact: No financial impact is anticipated at the university level
49 although FTES distribution changes will undoubtedly impact
50 departments.
51
52
53

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and ~~the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)~~ Writing in the Disciplines (WID)

1. Contextual preface:

- a. CSU GE requirements have been designed to complement the major program and electives completed by each baccalaureate candidate. These requirements are designed to provide the knowledge and perspectives that will enable CSU students to confront personal, cultural, moral, and social issues that are an inevitable part of human life, and cultivate enthusiasm for lifelong learning. (CSU Policy on (GE) General Education Requirements)¹

¹ The chancellor's office-driven response to update CSU GE requirements removed five lower-division units from GE requirements. It does this by: adding a one-unit laboratory for Biological or Physical Science, deleting one of three Arts or Humanities courses (formerly Area C), and deleting Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (formerly Area E). A total of five units were removed from lower-division CSU GE requirements. It is up to the individual CSU campuses to determine how to respond to these reductions.

- 66 b. The authority for this policy on GE guidelines relies on the unique role of
67 faculty in shared governance in institutions of higher learning with respect
68 to policies on academic and professional matters as recognized in Section
69 3561 of the California Higher Education Employee Relations Act (HEERA)
70 of 1978.
- 71 c. Consistent with section 6.2 Campus Responsibility of the CSU Policy on
72 (GE) General Education Requirements, the SJSU implementation of the
73 General Education requirements for SJSU students may add additional
74 content requirements to the minimum specified by the CSU Policy on (GE)
75 General Education Requirements. That is, individual CSUs can provide
76 additional learning outcomes and content in given areas of GE.
- 77 d. Consistent with section 6.2.5 GE Review and Assessment of the CSU Policy
78 on (GE) General Education Requirements, SJSU shall engage in the
79 assessment of GE areas, courses, and the GE program.
80

81 **2. Role of GE guidelines**

82 **a. Guidelines have the force of policy.**

83 The GE Guidelines are the implementation of CSU GE policy. The
84 expectation is that SJSU specific elements and interpretations will be
85 required of SJSU-approved GE courses

86 **3. Faculty oversight**

- 87 a. All new courses (GE or non-GE) are approved through the normal curricular
88 approval process. GE certification is a part of this process. Continuing GE
89 certification of already certified GE courses is a process currently tied to
90 departmental program planning.
91

92 **4. Roles of different entities with regard to GE guidelines**

93 **a. Curriculum & Research (C&R) Committee**

- 94 i. C&R is the body responsible for maintaining, updating, and
95 interpreting the GE Guidelines. C&R shall be authorized to
96 recommend changes to the GE Guidelines as needed. All
97 recommended changes shall be presented on the Consent Calendar
98 to the Academic Senate;

99 **b. SJSU General Education Advisory Committee (SJSU GEAC)**

- 100 i. As the campus experts on GE, GEAC provides recommendations to
101 C&R during the GE Guidelines update;

102 **c. Director of General Education**

103 i. Shall maintain records of suggestions for modification to the
104 guidelines and communicate with C&R and GEAC regarding the
105 suggestions.
106

107 ~~Statements from the old policy:~~

108
109 ~~Resolved: That Section VII of University Policy S17-11 (Organization of the~~
110 ~~Program Planning Process at SJSU) will be revised to reflect modifications to GE~~
111 ~~Program assessment and continuing certification of GE courses. Annual~~
112 ~~assessment reports for General Education courses will be included with the~~
113 ~~program planning process.~~

114 ~~Resolved: That the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC), in~~
115 ~~consultation with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, will begin~~
116 ~~recertification of all courses starting in Fall 2022 and completing all~~
117 ~~recertifications no later than Fall 2025 using ad hoc General Education Review~~
118 ~~Panels GRPs in accordance with University Policy F15-13 ; and be it further~~
119

120 ~~Resolved: That the General Education, American Institutions and Graduation~~
121 ~~Writing Assessment Requirements (GWAR) Guidelines shall undergo a full~~
122 ~~university review with submission of a program planning document that will be~~
123 ~~initiated by the General Education Advisory Committee beginning in AY 2030/31.~~
124 ~~Any recommended changes to the GE Guidelines shall be referred to C&R for~~
125 ~~deliberation.~~
126

127 ~~Rationale: In the academic year 2016/17, SJSU's General Education Program~~
128 ~~was reviewed through the Program Planning Process and an action plan was~~
129 ~~developed in 2018 to review and update the program learning outcomes and~~
130 ~~develop more effective processes for assessment. An ad hoc committee was~~
131 ~~created to review and modify the program learning outcomes in the academic~~
132 ~~year 2018/19. These new learning outcomes were presented to the C&R~~
133 ~~Committee which, in conjunction with the Academic Senate Office, held two~~
134 ~~campus-wide General Education Summits in late Fall 2019 and early Spring~~
135 ~~2020 to gather feedback on the program learning outcomes, the GE Area~~
136 ~~Learning Outcomes, and many other aspects of our GE Guidelines. These~~
137 ~~guidelines were also distributed in early Spring 2021 and C&R carefully reviewed~~
138 ~~all the feedback that was received. Thirteen additional forums were held in Fall~~
139 ~~2021. This extensive community input was reviewed, summarized, and~~

140 considered when creating the new GE Guidelines. Based upon consideration of
141 the feedback that has been received by the Curriculum and Research
142 Committee, these updated guidelines incorporate the creation of the new GE
143 Area F (Ethnic Studies) with reduction of Area D to 6 units as well as changes to
144 each GE Area, the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (formerly known
145 as Area Z on our campus), and the American Institutions Graduation
146 Requirements.
147 Timeline and Implementation: All undergraduate students entering SJSU Fall 2022
148 and after will be subject to the 2022 GE Guidelines. According to CSU policy,
149 continuing SJSU students and continuously enrolled California Community
150 College transfer students can opt to adhere to the GE Guidelines aligned with their
151 catalog rights.