



REIMAGINING THE AGECE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

CATEGORY CRITERIA VETTING

CONTEXT

The AGEC has not been significantly revised since 1991

- Before the Internet became publicly available
- Before email was common
- Before cell phones became widespread
- Before personal computers were used for more than just playing Oregon Trail

CONTEXT

A moment of opportunity:

- All three state universities have recently approved new general education requirements.
- The general education programs of the three universities are distinct from one another.
- All three state universities will continue to accept the completed AGEC as satisfying their lower-division general education requirements.
- Community colleges need not mimic the university gen ed requirements (especially when they don't mirror each other).
- Community colleges have unique missions that should be made manifest in the general education requirements.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Students need to understand why they are taking a general education curriculum and how it will benefit them. Category criteria should be easy to understand.
- Students need to clearly understand the connections between fields of knowledge and not just experience them as discreet, unrelated experiences.
- Classes in the general education curriculum need to be more than just introductions to or recruitment for the discipline. To be included in the AGEC, courses must address the **AAC&U Essential Learning Outcomes**.

AAC&U ESSENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical & Natural World

- Including science & mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts.
- *Focused on* engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring.

Intellectual and Practical Skills

- Including inquiry & analysis, critical & creating thinking, written & oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, and teamwork & problem solving.
- *Practiced extensively* across the curriculum in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance.

AAC&U ESSENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Personal and Social Responsibility

- Including civic knowledge & engagement (local and global), intercultural knowledge & competence, ethical reasoning & action, and foundations & skills for lifelong learning.
- *Anchored in* active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges.

Integrative and Applied Learning

- Including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies.
- *Demonstrated through* the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Students who do not complete the AGEC (including dual enrollment students who go straight to a university) will continue to have their coursework evaluated by the receiving university on a course-by-course basis
- Courses that already have a good transfer history will be the foundation of the AGEC curriculum, and their learning outcomes will be expanded to clearly demonstrate the connections among disciplines.
- Course criteria need to incorporate 21st century skills.

THE REIMAGINED AGECEC

- Only one AGECEC; students choose their math and science courses based on their intended transfer major
- College-level integrated Reading & Writing and Technical Writing classes can now be counted toward first-year composition if they meet the category criteria
- The “Options” category will now be replaced by two new categories:
 - American Institutions (3 cr.)
 - Skills for a Productive Life (3 cr.)
- Special designations will be eliminated; these learning outcomes will be incorporated in the appropriate categories

THE REIMAGINED AGEC

	New AGE C	Current AGE C-A	Current AGE C-B	Current AGE C-S
Composition <i>(formerly English Composition)</i>	6 cr.	6 cr.	6 cr.	6 cr.
Quantitative Reasoning <i>(formerly Mathematics)</i>	3 cr.	3 cr.	3 cr.	3 cr.
Arts & Humanities	6 cr.	6-9 cr.	6-9 cr.	6 cr.
Natural Sciences <i>(formerly Physical & Biological Sciences)</i>	8 cr.	8 cr.	8 cr.	8 cr.
Social & Behavioral Sciences	6 cr.	6-9 cr.	6-9 cr.	6 cr.
American Institutions	3 cr.	Options: 0-6 cr.	Options: 0-3 cr.	Add'l Math or Science courses: 6-8 cr.
Skills for a Productive Life	3 cr.		Intro to CIS: 3 cr.	
TOTAL	35 cr.	32-35 cr.	32-35 cr.	35-37 cr.

CATEGORY CRITERIA

- Category criteria are intended to be simple, easy to understand, and easy to apply.
- Some courses may need to be modified to include all of the necessary components.
- Category criteria are not learning outcomes. They are characteristics of the courses that will receive a certain AGEC designation.
- Criteria do not dictate course content. Students taking general education courses will experience a wide range of content areas and viewpoints. For example, one instructor may choose to emphasize western viewpoints while another may choose to emphasize indigenous viewpoints.

CATEGORY CRITERIA

Category criteria take two forms:

1. *Courses in this category will...*

This heading means that a course must satisfy this criterion in order to be included in the category.

2. *Courses in this category may...*

This heading means that this criterion is optional and may apply to some but not all courses in the category.

CATEGORY CRITERIA

Category criteria take two forms:

- In the Fall of 2022, faculty volunteers from relevant disciplines representing institutions across the state created draft criteria for each of the categories in the new AGECC.
- These criteria are drafts! As part of the vetting process, we are collecting feedback from faculty, staff, advisors, leadership, etc. to help refine and finalize the criteria. We need your feedback!

COMPOSITION (6 CREDITS)

Courses in this category will...	Essential Learning Outcome
Rhetorical Situation: Composition courses must include instruction on the rhetorical situation, including context and purpose for writing, including considerations of audience, purpose, and the circumstances surrounding the writing occasion.	Intellectual & Practical Skills: Information literacy
Writing Process: Composition courses must include instruction including content development, including the recursive writing process (strategies for generating ideas, drafting, revising, editing, and reflecting). This may include the research process.	Intellectual & Practical Skills: Written & oral communication
Research: Composition courses must include instruction on the use of sources and evidence, including responsible research (collecting, evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing primary and secondary research), use of sources (including digital/multimodal), and citation.	Intellectual & Practical Skills: Written & oral communication
Organizational Framework: Composition must include instruction on genre awareness and genre knowledge, including various organizational schema/strategies, development of ideas, and presentation. This may include instruction for academic and/or technical/professional purposes.	Intellectual & Practical Skills: Critical and creative thinking / Teamwork and problem solving
Writing Conventions: Composition courses must include guidance on the syntax and mechanics across varying linguistic and discourse communities, including exploration of academic and rhetorically diverse contexts.	Personal and Social Responsibility

COMPOSITION (6 CREDITS)

Courses in this category may...

Teach students to communicate orally and visually with attention to audience, medium, and message.

Essential Learning Outcome

Intellectual & Practical Skills: Written & oral communication

▶ Examples of disciplines whose courses might fall into this category:

- English
- Business Communication
- Journalism

QUANTITATIVE REASONING (3 CREDITS)

Courses in this category will...	Essential Learning Outcome
Teach students mathematical, statistical, and/or programming techniques and methods and to use those methods to solve meaningful problems.	Intellectual and Practical Skills: Quantitative literacy
Teach students to express quantitative information symbolically, graphically, and/or in written or oral language.	Intellectual and Practical Skills: Information literacy / Quantitative literacy
Teach students to interpret, analyze, and critique information or a line of reasoning.	Intellectual and Practical Skills: Information literacy

Examples of disciplines whose courses might fall into this category:

- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Computer Science / Information Systems
- Data Science
- Philosophy (formal logic courses)

ARTS & HUMANITIES (6 CREDITS)

Courses in this category will...	Essential Learning Outcome
Engage students in the analysis, interpretation and/or creation of cultural, artistic and/or intellectual artifacts.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical Natural World Intellectual and Practical Skills: Critical and Creative Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Written and Oral Communication
Foster students' global awareness and intercultural knowledge and empathy by situating cultural, artistic and/or intellectual artifacts in a diverse range of cultural, historical and intellectual contexts.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical Natural World Intellectual and Practical Skills: Critical and Creative Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Written and Oral Communication Personal and Social Responsibility: Intercultural Knowledge and Competence"
Allow students to develop an understanding of religious, philosophical, existential and moral questions with the possibility of developing informed civic and ethical identities.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical Natural World Intellectual and Practical Skills: Critical and Creative Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Written and Oral Communication Personal and Social Responsibility: Intercultural Knowledge and Competence

ARTS & HUMANITIES (6 CREDITS)

Courses in this category may...

Require students to create and/or re-create artistic works culminating in individual or group exhibition, publication, production, or performance.

Essential Learning Outcome

Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical Natural World

Intellectual and Practical Skills: Critical and Creative Thinking; Teamwork and Problem Solving

Examples of disciplines whose courses might fall into this category:

- Area Studies
- Civilization
- Cultural Geography
- Ethnic Studies
- World History
- Literature / Literary Arts
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Religion
- Visual Arts

NATURAL SCIENCES (8 CREDITS)

Courses in this category will...	Essential Learning Outcome
Teach students to describe, explain, and predict natural phenomena using scientific and quantitative reasoning and empirical evidence from observation and experimentation.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical & Natural World
Utilize experimentation and observation to study natural phenomena, including the practice of testing falsifiable hypotheses.	Intellectual and Practical Skills: Inquiry and analysis
Require students to communicate information about the natural world using written, numeric, and/or visual formats.	Intellectual and Practical Skills: Written and oral communication
Explore the history of scientific development and how our understanding of the natural world has changed over time; help students understand that our current assumptions about the natural world are continually evolving.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical & Natural World
Teach students to critically evaluate scientific information, including visual displays and quantitative data, found on the Internet and from other sources.	Intellectual and Practical Skills: Information literacy

NATURAL SCIENCES (8 CREDITS)

Courses in this category may...	Essential Learning Outcome
Introduce students to how the tools and techniques of the natural sciences are applied to global and local issues such as sustainability, global warming, etc.	Integrative and Applied Learning
Investigate how understanding of natural phenomena varies by culture and location, including perspectives of indigenous peoples.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical & Natural World
Interrogate our assumptions about the natural world and the implications those assumptions have for individual and societal decisions.	Integrative and Applied Learning

Examples of disciplines whose courses might fall into this category:

- Agriculture / Agricultural Sciences
- Astronomy
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science / Sustainability (with natural science methodology)
- Forestry & Natural Resources
- Geology / Geosciences (including Meteorology and Oceanography)
- Health Sciences
- Physics

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (6 CREDITS)

Courses in this category will...	Essential Learning Outcome
Teach students how to understand cultural, social, family, historic, and political events and processes using social scientific theories, methods, principles, and perspectives.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical & Natural World
Teach students to apply social scientific methods of inquiry to generate knowledge about human behavior within societies and across cultural groups.	Intellectual and Practical Skills: Inquiry and analysis
Explore the diversity of human development and social groups and behaviors across time, culture, and historic/social/political contexts.	Personal & Social Responsibility

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (6 CREDITS)

Courses in this category may...	Essential Learning Outcome
Study interactions among human thought, behavior, relationships and actions through the lens of social scientific analytic frameworks.	Intellectual & Practical Skills: Inquiry & analysis
Explore the challenges of understanding the diverse natures of individuals and cultural groups who live together in a complex and evolving world.	Personal & Social Responsibility
Teach critical thinking skills needed to better understand the range of human experience through time and to navigate stressful challenges inherent in the human condition.	Integrative and Applied Learning
Investigate social consequences of large-scale and group economic, technological, scientific, political, ecological and cultural change.	Personal & Social Responsibility

Examples of disciplines whose courses might fall into this category:

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Education/Early Childhood Education
- Geography
- History
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS (3 CREDITS)

Courses in this category will...	Essential Learning Outcome
Interrogate how history and the origins and cultures of different peoples inhabiting the geographic area of the United States have shaped current experience.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical & Natural World
Explain governmental structures and/or philosophies important within United States and/or Tribal contexts.	Personal and Social Responsibility
Assess the basic principles of American constitutional democracy and republicanism and/or First Nation political theories and how they are applied through the analysis of the U.S. Constitution, Tribal constitutions, other founding documents, significant treaties, and landmark court cases.	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning
Develop civic virtues for effective citizenship and civic participation.	Personal and Social Responsibility
Examine basic economic knowledge for critically assessing public policy options or personal and professional decision-making.	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning"

AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS (3 CREDITS)

Courses in this category may...	Essential Learning Outcome
Introduce students to the major religious or spiritual philosophies and communities that helped shape U.S. culture.	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical & Natural World
Analyze documentary evidence; compare and contrast scholarly interpretations.	Intellectual and Practical Skills Integrative and Applied Learning
Examine the multifaceted history of English, Spanish, and French colonialism within North America	Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical & Natural World

Examples of disciplines whose courses might fall into this category:

- Economics
- Government
- Justice Studies / Criminal Justice/
Administration of Justice
- Law
- Political Science
- U.S. History

SKILLS FOR A PRODUCTIVE LIFE (3 CREDITS)

Courses in this category will...	Essential Learning Outcome
Teach skills and abilities needed to be successful in and out of the classroom	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning
Teach skills needed to recognize and respect diversity	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning
Connect and apply knowledge and skills learned in college classes to educational, professional, and personal goals	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning

SKILLS FOR A PRODUCTIVE LIFE (3 CREDITS)

Courses in this category may...	Essential Learning Outcome
Teach the importance of financial literacy in leading a productive life	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning
Teach the importance of digital literacy in leading a productive life	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning
Connect the importance of health and wellness to success and productivity in one's personal and professional life	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning
Teach how to use language(s) to explore and express ideas in a diverse society	Intellectual and Practical Skills Personal and Social Responsibility Integrative and Applied Learning

Examples of disciplines whose courses might fall into this category:

- College Success Skills
- Communication
- Digital Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Health & Wellness
- Internships & Work-Based Learning
- Languages
- Life Skills

NEXT STEPS

Please review the criteria, discuss them, and provide your comments and feedback by March 31, 2023. Your institution's lead GenEd ATF member can provide you with ways to give your comments and feedback. Focusing questions:

- Is there a critical characteristic of courses that belong in this category that we missed?
- Are the criteria in this category written in a way that is easily understood by both faculty and students?
- What other suggestions do you have to help the criteria meet our guiding principles?

NEXT STEPS

January 17-March 31, 2023

Criteria drafts disseminated to ATF Listservs, feedback gathered by GEATF members.

April 1, 2023

Institutional comments due

April 13-14, 2023

Listening sessions at AZTransfer Summit
Criteria drafting groups meet to review comments and revise criteria

April 1, 2023 -May 5, 2023

NEXT STEPS

May 2023 GEATF meets to review and refine criteria

May 2023 GEATF meets with AZTransfer Steering Committee

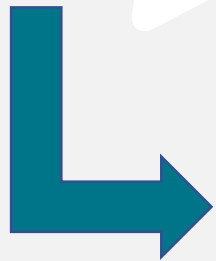
June 1, 2023 AGEC Redesign presented to AZTransfer Steering Committee for approval

Fall 2025 **New AGEC goes into effect.**

GEATF ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The General Education Articulation Task Force (GEATF) is charged with leading statewide and institutional discussions about AGEC revisions.

- Community college GEATF members facilitate discussion and feedback through their institutional general education committees, faculty senate, and/or other venues.
- University GEATF members are encouraged to share experience via the AGEC Criteria Comment Google Form.



Lead members will consolidate institutional feedback and submit via the AGEC Criteria Comment Google Form.



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CATEGORY CRITERIA VETTING