General Education requirements

Welcome
Hi! We would like to familiarize you with General Education requirements for Binghamton University!

We've made a list of Frequently Asked Questions about General Education requirements.

“What is a General Education requirement?”

General Education requirements or “Gen Eds” are courses in several areas of knowledge and experience that we as Binghamton University students need to complete before we graduate.

“Why are Gen Ed courses important?”

Gen Ed courses help create well-rounded students who bring value to the world around them.

These courses
- give you a deeper understanding of scholarship and research in areas you may not have planned to explore,
- help you establish your core values and express yourself, and
- teach you appreciation and understanding of the people and the world around you.

“How do we know which courses are Gen Ed courses?”

When you go to the Schedule of Classes, you will see the designated Gen Ed letter assigned to that course. To open the Schedule of Classes, click the link. [http://ssb.cc.binghamton.edu/banner/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched]

“What Courses do I need to take?”

This is a good question and requires a lengthy response.

Before we get started, you may want to open and possibly print out the General Education requirements planning sheet.[http://www.binghamton.edu/general-education/requirements.html]

As Binghamton University students, we are required to take Gen Ed courses in the following areas:

Aesthetics - Aesthetics courses are designated with an A. These courses enhance your understanding of the creative process and the role of imagination in it. You may choose to study or practice artistic expression and production in such fields
as art, art history, cinema, creative writing, dance, graphic design, music and theater.

**Composition** - Composition courses have a C designation. Although these courses cover a wide range of subjects, in all C courses writing assignments are at least 50% of your final grade. C courses require a process of revision and a minimum of 20 pages of expository writing. (J courses, Joint Composition and Oral Communication courses meet both the C and O requirements.)

**Global Interdependencies** - Designated with a G, Global Interdependencies courses study how two or more distinctive world regions have influenced and interacted with one another and how such interactions have been informed by their respective cultures or civilizations.

**Humanities** - Humanities courses have an H designation. They enhance your understanding of human experience through the study of literature or philosophy.

**Laboratory Science** - Laboratory Science are designated with an L. They emphasize making observations and working in a hands-on environment. Each course includes a minimum of 10 laboratory meetings, exercises, field studies or practica.

**Mathematics/Reasoning** - M designated courses include any course in the Mathematics Department numbered 130 or above, any of several designated statistics courses, or any of several designated logic courses.

**Social Sciences** - Social Science, or N designated courses, emphasize the major concepts, models and issues of at least one of the social sciences.

**Oral Communication** - Oral Communication courses have an O designation. Although they cover a wide range of subjects, they are courses where oral presentation makes up at least 15% of your final grade. O courses involve at least two oral presentations and evaluation of speaking. (J courses, Joint Composition and Oral Communication courses meet both the C and O requirements.)

**Pluralism** - Pluralism, or P courses, consider the specific experiences of diverse groups in the United States and how they have affected and been affected by the basic institutions of American society.

*Your high school U.S. history background will help you figure out if you can choose any P course or if you need to choose from a particular list.*

**Physical Activity and Wellness** - These courses are designated Y, S, and B.
*Physical Activity (Y) courses* devote at least 50 percent of their time to the performance of physical exercise and are designed to develop one or more of the following attributes: neuromuscular skill, muscular strength and endurance, cardiovascular endurance or flexibility.

*Wellness (S) courses* deal with such topics as diet and nutrition; physical development; substance abuse, human sexuality; relaxation, or physical, mental and emotional fitness. Their focus is on developing a healthy lifestyle rather than on simply providing information about the human body.

*Physical Activity/Wellness (B) courses* combine components of physical activity and wellness. Students must complete one of the following:

- 1-credit (or more) Y course plus a 1-credit (or more) S course
- 1-credit B course plus one of the following:
  - 1-credit Y course
  - 1-credit S course
  - 1-credit B course
- 2-credit (or more) B course

**Foreign Language** - Foreign Language courses are designated as FL1, FL2, or FL3. Use the Foreign Language Calculator to find out what your school's [Foreign Language Requirement](http://www.binghamton.edu/general-education/foreign-language/forlangform.html) is.

**“Do different majors have different Gen Ed requirements?”**
Binghamton's only General Education requirement which differs by school or major is the Foreign Language requirement. The Foreign Language requirement is waived for Watson Engineering students only. Nursing and Computer Science Majors also have different requirements. If you have any questions, use the [Foreign Language Calculator](http://www.binghamton.edu/general-education/foreign-language/forlangform.html).

**“What grade do I need?”**
For Binghamton University courses, you will need to earn a D or better for the course to count toward your Gen Ed requirements. High school and any college transfer credits are treated differently.

We hope this helped answer your questions about General Education requirements.

If you have additional questions, contact your school’s Academic Advising Office:
CCPA: Human Development Undergraduate Office
HDadvise@binghamton.edu
607-777-9199

Decker: Student Services Office
nursing@binghamton.edu
(607) 777-4954

Harpur: Advising Office
harpfrsh@binghamton.edu
(607) 777-3700

SOM: Advising Office
somadvis@binghamton.edu
607-777-2316

Watson: Advising Office
wtsnadv@binghamton.edu
607-777-6203

THANK YOU!