

Adopted: April 16, 2019

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA**

**AS-873-19**

**RESOLUTION ON TEMPLATE FOR GENERAL EDUCATION 2020**

- WHEREAS, Cal Poly's current General Education template was created over two decades ago; and
- WHEREAS, Executive Order 1100-Revised, imposed on the CSU campuses in August 2017, mandates modification of Cal Poly's current General Education template; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly approve the attached *Template for General Education 2020*; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That it be implemented for all students following the 2020–2021 and subsequent catalogs.

Proposed by: General Education Governance Board  
Date: April 9, 2019

# TEMPLATE FOR GENERAL EDUCATION 2020

## Standard GE Template

The standard template includes the following distribution of courses:

<b>Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking</b>		
A1	Oral Communication	4
A2	Written Communication	4
A3	Critical Thinking	4
<b>Total Units in Area A</b>		<b>12</b>

<b>Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning</b>		
B1	Physical Science	4
B2	Life Science	4
B3	Laboratory Activity	in B1 or B2
B4	Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning	4
Upper-Division B		4
<b>Total Units in Area B</b>		<b>16</b>

<b>Area C: Arts and Humanities</b>		
<i>Lower-division courses in Area C must come from three different prefixes.</i>		
C1	Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater	4
C2	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	4
Lower-Division C Elective – <i>Select a course from either C1 or C2</i>		4
Upper-Division C		4
<b>Total Units in Area C</b>		<b>16</b>

<b>Area D: Social Sciences</b>		
D1	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement)	4
D2	Lower-Division D – <i>Select courses from two different prefixes</i>	8
Upper-Division D		4
<b>Total Units in Area D</b>		<b>16</b>

<b>Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development</b>		
Lower-Division E		4
<b>Total Units in Area E</b>		<b>4</b>

<b>GE Electives in Area B, C, and D</b>		
GE Electives – <i>Select courses from two different areas; may be either lower- or upper-division levels.</i>		8
<b>Total Units in GE Electives</b>		<b>8</b>

<b>TOTAL UNITS IN GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM</b>		<b>72</b>
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## GE Template for High-Unit Programs

The template includes the following distribution of courses for qualifying high-unit programs:

<b>Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking</b>		
A1	Oral Communication	4
A2	Written Communication	4
A3	Critical Thinking	4
<b>Total Units in Area A</b>		<b>12</b>

<b>Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning</b>		
B1	Physical Science	4
B2	Life Science	4
B3	Laboratory Activity	in B1 or B2
B4	Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning	8
Upper-Division B		4
Area B Electives		8
<b>Total Units in Area B</b>		<b>28</b>

<b>Area C: Arts and Humanities</b>		
<i>Lower-division courses in Area C must come from three different prefixes.</i>		
C1	Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater	4
C2	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	4
Lower-Division C Elective – <i>Select a course from either C1 or C2</i>		4
Upper-Division C		4
<b>Total Units in Area C</b>		<b>16</b>

<b>Area D: Social Sciences</b>		
D1	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement)	4
D2	Lower-Division D	4
Area D Elective – <i>Select either an additional lower-division D2 or an upper-division D course</i>		4
<b>Total Units in Area D</b>		<b>12</b>

<b>Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development</b>		
Lower-Division E		4
<b>Total Units in Area E</b>		<b>4</b>

<b>TOTAL UNITS IN GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM</b>		<b>72</b>
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## **High-Unit Programs**

Consistent with EO 1100-R (2.2.5), Cal Poly recognizes the need to offer consideration to high-unit major degree programs. Cal Poly's definition of a high-unit program in the GE template included herein is equivalent to our definition of "engineering programs" from the prior GE template: all programs within the College of Engineering along with the other ABET accredited programs of ARCE and BRAE. Only these programs will be considered high-unit major degree programs.

## **Writing Component**

All General Education courses must have an appropriate writing component. In achieving this objective, writing in most courses should be viewed primarily as a tool of learning (rather than a goal in itself as in a composition course), and faculty should determine the appropriate ways to integrate writing into coursework. The writing component may take different forms according to the subject matter and the purpose of a course. Outside of the GE areas specified below, at least 10% of the grade in all GE courses must be based on appropriate written work (e.g., lab reports, math proofs, essay questions, word problems, exam questions).

GE areas A2, A3, Upper-Division C, and Upper-Division D are designated as Writing Intensive. All courses in these areas must include a minimum of 3,000 words of writing and base 50% or more of a student's grade on written work. GE area C2 is also designated as Writing Intensive, but all courses in this area must include a minimum of 2,000 words of writing and base 50% or more of a student's grade on written work. All Writing Intensive courses must include process-oriented writing instruction in which faculty provide ongoing feedback to students to help them grasp the effectiveness of their writing in various disciplinary contexts. The kind and amount of writing must be a factor in determining class sizes.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Dustin Stegner  
Academic Senate Chair

**Date:** May 6, 2019

**From:** Jeffery D. Armstrong  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffery D. Armstrong".

**Copies:** Kathleen Enz Finken  
Mary Pedersen  
Bruno Giberti  
Gary Laver  
Amy Fleischer  
Andy Thulin  
Christine Theodoropoulos  
Dean Wendt  
Kathryn Rummell  
Scott Dawson  
Cem Sunata

**Subject:** Response to AS-873-19 Resolution on Template for General Education 2020

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I am pleased to acknowledge and support the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.

I appreciate the leadership of Gary Laver, General Education Governance Board (GEGB) Chair, and the efforts of the GEGB and the GE Area Committees to complete the GE Template 2020. The collaboration and input from these groups exemplifies their commitment to the improvement of the GE curriculum.

Please extend my thanks to the Academic Senate members for their prompt attention to this matter.