

Script for the “General Studies Guidelines” slide show. This first section is the voice-over script that will be read aloud for each of the slides. The second section contains the written “notes” that are appended to each of the slides and can be seen as the slide show runs.

## **SECTION I: VOICE-OVER SCRIPT**

### GENERAL STUDIES AREAS

In this slide show we’re going to talk a little bit about general studies. When you get an undergraduate education, you’re not just studying the stuff in the area of your major, but it’s also really important that you have a little bit of exposure to all the branches of knowledge. General studies guidelines say that you need to have some courses in several core areas and also in three different awareness areas. General studies, in other words, help you get a well-rounded education. For more information on each of the general studies areas, you can let the slide show run, or you can navigate to specific areas by clicking on the titles menu on the right of the screen. To see extra text for each slide, click on the “notes” tab to the right.

### GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS

You have to complete at least 35 hours of general studies as an undergrad. The nice thing is, a lot of general studies courses are approved to satisfy more than one area at a time, so you can sometimes get two for one.

Here’s how it works: you can take one course to satisfy one core area and a maximum of two awareness areas. And you can also take one course to satisfy a maximum of two awareness areas. What you can’t do is use one course to satisfy two core requirements, even if that course is approved for both areas. So for example, a course that is labeled both SB and SQ can’t be used for both, because they’re both core areas. You’d have to pick which area you will apply that course to.

You can use your AP or CLEP credits for your general studies, but keep in mind that CLEP will not count toward natural sciences, that is, SQ and SG, or literacy and critical inquiry, or L.

### LITERACY AND CRITICAL INQUIRY

One general studies requirement is for literacy and critical inquiry. These courses have the L tag. What’s required is 6 semester hours in courses with the L designation, 3 in a lower division class and 3 in an upper division class.

It’s really important that all students have exposure to literacy and critical inquiry. All students should be able to read well, not just rake their eyes over the page and say, “oh, I read it,” but to actually understand and get the meat out of a reading. It’s also really important to be able to express yourself well, make an argument that can win people over, and communicate with other people. Sharing ideas

that change the world demands the ability to communicate effectively and engage in critical inquiry, and that's what these courses help you learn how to do.

### MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (MA)

There are 2 general studies requirements for mathematical studies, CS and MA. We will talk about the MA requirement on this slide. You need to take one 3 credit course that meets the MA requirement such as college mathematics, finite mathematics or calculus. Please check with your advisor about which MA course is required for your major. Also, some majors may require additional math courses beyond the MA.

The reason for the math requirement is that every educated person should be able to think abstractly and mathematically. More specifically, we want students to be able to go beyond symbolic manipulation, beyond simple algebra. So the courses that satisfy the math component have a focus of applied analysis, critical thinking, and quantitative reasoning abilities beyond the traditional algebra curriculum. The MA requirement needs to be satisfied before you complete your first 30 hours of coursework.

### MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (CS)

The other general studies requirement for math is called CS, which stands for computers and statistics and quantitative applications. So in addition to your MA requirement discussed on another slide you are also required to take a 3 credit CS designated course.

A CS course is about the use of statistics/quantitative analysis or the use of the computer to assist in serious analytical math work. The reason for this requirement is to take you beyond using simple spreadsheets and other software. We want you to learn more than basic descriptive statistics and at least get a taste of statistics and other analytical skills that are really important to decision making no matter what field you are in.

### HUMANITIES, FINE ARTS & DESIGN (HU)

Another general studies requirement is in the area of humanities, fine arts, and design, which we're just going to call HU or humanities. The requirement is that you take 15 semester hours total, in humanities and social & behavioral sciences combined. We'll talk about social and behavioral sciences in another slide. Basically you would have 6 hours in one of these areas and 9 in the other and you get to pick where you're going to have the 6 and where you're going to have the 9. Three of these 15 hours must be upper division.

The reason we want you to study some humanities, fine arts, and design is because these disciplines are concerned with questions of human existence and meaning, with the nature of thinking and knowing,

and with moral and aesthetic experience. You can get exposed to humanities, fine arts, and design in such areas as art, literature, philosophy, religion, ethics, history, aesthetics, and music.

#### SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (SB)

Another core general studies area is social and behavioral sciences. The requirement is that you would take 15 semester hours total in humanities and social and behavioral sciences combined. The 15 would be divided 6 in one area and 9 in the other, and you get to decide where you have the 6 and where you have the 9. Three of these 15 hours must be upper division.

It's required because the social and behavioral sciences provide knowledge about human behavior both within society and individually. Social and behavioral sciences give us a lot of insight into human events. Areas in which you can study social and behavioral sciences include anthropology, economics, human geography, psychology, sociology, history, linguistics, political science, and others.

#### NATURAL SCIENCES (SQ/SG)

Another general studies core requirement is natural sciences. There are two tags for natural sciences classes: SQ and SG. SQ stands for Quantitative Science, and SG stands for General Science. They are both considered lab courses. SQ courses cover fundamental behavior of matter and energy in physical and biological systems. SG courses have more qualitative or descriptive discussions of science. The requirement is that you take 2 lab science classes, either 2 SQ classes, or 1 SQ and 1 SG, and each of these are 4 semester hours.

It's required because scientific advances increasingly affect our lives and it's very important for all students to understand how to think scientifically, and to understand the fundamental behavior of matter and energy. You can find SQ and SG courses in anthropology, astronomy, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, experimental psychology, geology, microbiology, physical geography, physics and plant biology.

#### CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE US (C)

Now we come to the general studies awareness areas. One general studies awareness area is cultural diversity in the US, or the C designation. You are required to have one 3 semester hour course with a C designation. Now, people often mix up the cultural diversity with the global awareness (that's the G designation). The difference is that the C designation talks about different cultures and groups within the US whereas the global awareness deals with these things outside the US.

Cultural diversity in the US is a required topic because it's important that we understand and appreciate the contributions, dynamics, and experience of different cultural, gender, racial, ethnic, and linguistic minority groups within the US.

## GLOBAL AWARENESS (G)

Another General Studies awareness area is Global Awareness, or (G). The requirement is that you take one 3-semester-hour course that has the (G) designation. The Global Awareness requirement is intended to help students understand the values, elements, and social processes of non-U.S. cultures. It's important that we get an understanding of what's going on outside our borders. You can fulfill this requirement in many ways, including by taking a non-English language course that has a significant cultural component.

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## HISTORICAL AWARENESS (H)

Another awareness area is historical awareness, or H. You are required to take one 3 semester history course. The great thing is that many H courses have a double designation; in other words, you can find a lot of H courses that also satisfy requirements for a core area such as literacy, social & behavioral science, or humanities.

Historical Awareness is needed for at least two reasons. First, it helps us to better understand present-day problems because they have their roots in the past. Second, it increases intercultural understanding because present-day cultural differences have their origins in the past. Where we are now is a product of where we have been. In order to understand the present it is useful to understand the past.

## CONCLUSION SLIDE (with the "bubbles")

General Studies support and round out your education, no matter what major you have chosen. They are part of the high-quality university education that you will get here at Arizona State.

A baccalaureate education should not only prepare students for a particular profession or advanced study, but for constructive and satisfying personal, social and civic lives as well. In addition to depth of knowledge in a particular academic or professional discipline, students should also be broadly educated and develop the general intellectual skills they need to continue learning throughout their lives. Thus, the General Studies requirement complements the undergraduate major by helping students gain mastery of critical learning skills, investigate the traditional branches of knowledge, and develop the broad perspective that frees one to appreciate diversity and change across time, culture, and national boundaries.

## **SECTION II: “NOTES” FOR EACH SLIDE**

These are the written notes that appear off to the side of each slide under the “notes” tab.

### **GENERAL STUDIES AREAS**

A baccalaureate education should not only prepare students for a particular profession or advanced study, but for constructive and satisfying personal, social and civic lives as well. In addition to depth of knowledge in a particular academic or professional discipline, students should also be broadly educated and develop the general intellectual skills they need to continue learning throughout their lives. Thus, the General Studies requirement complements the undergraduate major by helping students gain mastery of critical learning skills, investigate the traditional branches of knowledge, and develop the broad perspective that frees one to appreciate diversity and change across time, culture, and national boundaries.

Critical learning skills include proficiency in the use of language, mathematics and quantitative methods as tools for acquiring, renewing, creating and communicating knowledge. A broad education includes an understanding of the methods and concerns of traditional branches of knowledge—the arts and humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. Developing perspective requires historical, global and cross-cultural examination of knowledge of all kinds.

### **GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS**

All students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program must successfully complete a minimum of 35 semester hours of approved General Studies courses. Many General Studies courses are approved as satisfying more than one requirement. The following conditions govern the application of courses toward the General Studies requirement:

A single course may be used to satisfy one core area and a maximum of two awareness area requirements;

A single course may be used to satisfy a maximum of two awareness area requirements;

A single course cannot be used to satisfy two core area requirements, even if it is approved for more than one core area.

There is no limit to the number of advanced placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits that can be used to meet the General Studies requirement. However, the natural sciences (SQ and SG) and literacy and critical inquiry (L) portions of the General Studies requirement are not satisfied by CLEP.

## LITERACY & CRITICAL INQUIRY

Literacy is viewed as communicative competence in written and oral discourse. Critical inquiry involves the gathering, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence. Every undergraduate student is required to take 6 semester hours with the (L) designation. Three semester hours are drawn from lower division courses and three from upper division courses, preferably in the student's major. Lower division (L) courses emphasize development of critical skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, or analysis of discourse. Upper division (L) courses in a particular discipline integrate writing and critical inquiry as a means of learning the content and demonstrating that it has been learned.

Courses that merit the (L) designation meet the following four criteria: 1) at least 50% of the grade in the course depends upon writing; 2) the composition tasks involve the gathering, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence; 3) there are a minimum of two substantial writing or speaking assignments; and 4) these substantial writing or speaking assignments require timely feedback in order to improve upon subsequent assignments.

"Good writing takes more than just time; it wants your best moments and the best of you." (King, S. [2000] On Writing, p 147)

## MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (MA)

Every introductory mathematics course requires a placement test. Information about placement testing can be found at <http://math.asu.edu/fym/index.html>

## MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (CS)

(no notes provided)

## HUMANITIES, FINE ARTS, AND DESIGN (HU)

Disciplines in the fine arts and design employ modes of thought and communication that are often nonverbal, which means that courses in these areas tend to focus on objects, images, and structures and/or on the practical techniques and historical development of artistic and design traditions. In a nutshell, these disciplines explore the range of human thought and its application to the past and present human environment. Courses in the humanities, fine arts, and design provide an opportunity for students to observe and/or learn the production of art work and design and encourage students to investigate their own personal philosophies or beliefs and to enhance and deepen their understanding of their own social experience.

## SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (SB)

The social sciences constitute one of the two main branches of "science" (the other being the "natural sciences" such as physics and biology). The social and behavioral sciences provide scientific methods of inquiry and empirical knowledge about human behavior, within society and individually. They can include anthropology, economics, human geography, psychology, sociology, history, linguistics, political science, and others. The importance of the social and behavioral sciences is evident in both the increasing number of scientific inquiries into human behavior and the amount of attention paid to those inquiries. In both private and public sectors people rely on social scientific findings to assess the social consequences of large-scale economic, technological, scientific, and cultural changes. Social scientists' observations about human behavior and their unique perspectives on human events make an important contribution to civic dialogue. Today, those insights are particularly crucial due to growing economic and political interdependence among nations. The courses in this area address the challenge of understanding the diverse natures of individuals and cultural groups who live together in a world of diminishing economic, linguistic, military, political and social distance.

A total of 15 semester hours must be completed in the following two core areas: (1) humanities, fine arts, and design (HU) and (2) social and behavioral sciences (SB). Two conditions must be satisfied: (1) six semester hours must be taken in one of these two core areas and nine hours in the other core area; and (2) three of the 15 semester hours must be at the upper-division level.

## NATURAL LAB SCIENCES (SQ/SG)

In a relatively short time in the history of civilized societies, humankind moved from what was essentially an agrarian population into an industrial age, which in recent years has been profoundly shaped by such scientific and technological advances as genetic engineering, the computer, and space exploration. Our history of irrepressible ingenuity makes a compelling case for a future that will be even more profoundly influenced by science and technology. It is imperative that we react expeditiously and effectively to the problems and the promise that these advances create. We must ensure that technological change is directed to the benefit of society and that it will promote human dignity and values. Success in achieving this goal will depend upon the insight and knowledge of political and public opinion leaders, and the scientific enlightenment of educated citizens. To a significant degree, the ability of you to understand the nature of the issues and the alternative courses of action will be determined by the quality of science presented at the nation's institutions of higher learning. At ASU, you must take at least one quantitative (SQ) laboratory science class and one general science (SG) class, and you have a very wide range of different sciences to explore.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE US (C)

The Cultural Diversity in the U.S. ( C ) requirement is different from the Global Awareness (G) requirement in that C courses focus on an awareness of cultural diversity within the United States, while G courses provide students with an understanding of the values, elements, and social processes of cultures other than that of the United States. As a complex and diverse society, the United States includes a multiplicity of cultural, gender, racial, ethnic, and linguistic minority groups whose interaction ranges from conditions of agreement to conflict. This complexity necessitates that all members of our society have an understanding of the experiences and/or contributions of particular groups in the United States, or explore successful or unsuccessful interactions between and among these groups. Awareness of cultural diversity and its multiple sources can illuminate the collective past, present and future and also help students to achieve greater mutual understanding and respect. At ASU you must take one ( C ) designated course. There are over 250 with a C designation from which you can choose.

## GLOBAL AWARENESS (G)

One outcome of a liberal education is greater awareness of ways in which people around the world resemble each other, and ways in which they differ. This is particularly valuable in our era of global interconnection. A great challenge of the nuclear age is to develop and maintain global perspectives that foster international cooperation. While the modern world comprises politically independent states, we must transcend nationalism and recognize the interdependence of all peoples. Exposure to different cultural systems around the world provides the intellectual background necessary to developing a global perspective.

Courses that meet the requirement in Global Awareness are of one or more of the following types: (1) in-depth area studies that examine culture-specific elements of a country, a culture, or a region of the world, (2) the study of a contemporary non-English language that has a significant cultural component, (3) comparative cultural studies with an emphasis on non-U.S. areas, and (4) in-depth studies of non-U.S.-centered cultural interrelationships of global scope, such as the interdependence associated with geopolitics, multinational corporations, global migration, or the threat of war. Non-U.S. material must constitute more than half of the course.

## HISTORICAL AWARENESS (H)

University graduates often lack an understanding of human history that has both breadth and depth. This problem has led to calls for the creation and development of historical awareness during the undergraduate years. From one perspective, historical awareness is a valuable aid in the analysis of present-day problems because historical forces and traditions have created modern life and lie just beneath its surface. From a second perspective, the historical past is an indispensable source of national identity and of values which facilitate social harmony and cooperative effort. Along with this observation, it should be noted that historical study can produce intercultural understanding by tracing cultural differences to their origins in the past. A third perspective on the need for historical awareness is summed up in the aphorism that he who fails to learn from the past is doomed to repeat it. Teachers



of today's students know well that those students do not usually approach questions of war and peace with any knowledge of historic concord, aggression, or cruelty, including even events so recent as Nazi and Stalinist terror. Students at ASU are required to take one (3-credit hour) H course--a course that also may carry the L, HU, or SB designation.