

Policy AA7.02: General Education

Oversight	Information
Policy Type	Academics, Compliance
Policy Owners	Chief Academic Officer
Initial Policy Approval Date	March 17, 2014
Current Revision Approval Date	March 4, 2020
Procedure Effective Date	March 4, 2020

Policy

American Sentinel College General Education curriculum promotes an integrative academic experience to support the acquisition of the abilities, skills, and knowledge-sets fundamental to life-long learning and the enhancement of professional and civic lives in our global society. This policy is applicable to undergraduate programs.

Guidelines

The general education program provides students with an educational experience, from a twenty-first century perspective, to enhance their professional and civic lives.

The General Education program serves the RN to BSN, RN to BSN Powered by *SIMPath*® and RN to BSN/MSN programs.

General education courses are specifically developed for the General Education Program to provide students with exposure to a variety discipline. This helps them internalize key concepts in the subject area and apply these concepts to problems and issues in their lives and in their coursework. Area disciplines include those that address English, human communications, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

The general education program has the following student learning outcomes:

- Critical thinking
- Communication Competency
- Knowledge Acquisition

Procedure

The following procedures establish the requirements for the General Education curriculum at American Sentinel College. Critical thinking, communication competency and knowledge acquisition are threaded throughout the general education curriculum with additional opportunities to augment these abilities, skills, and knowledge-sets in the students' major field of study.

To support our students, an integrative “vertically designed” program was identified and developed to realize expected student capabilities across the curriculum rather than within one specific course. This approach provides students with flexible points of entry. Our skills-based program enables students to draw clear connections between skills developed in general education and those developed in their majors.

The current institution-wide requirements for general education are divided into four categories: Communication Competency, Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, and Science, Mathematics, and Information Technology.

Required Credits for General Education by Category

General Education Categories	Credit hour requirements per category.
Communication Competency	6 credits
Humanities	9 credits
Behavioral and Social Sciences	9 credits
Science, Mathematics and Information Technology	6 credits
Totals	30 credits

Programmatic General Education Curriculum Requirements - Individual academic programs may set additional requirements for general education to be completed as part of their programs, including specific course requirements, and requirements for minimum numbers of credits in courses designated to focus on specific competencies (such as writing, statistical methods, or analytic reasoning).

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The Dean facilitates the recruitment of subject matter experts and faculty members to develop and enhance the general education courses in conversation with the instructional designers, Dean, and faculty leaders. All general education courses must adhere to rigorous criteria that include but are not limited to the following:

- Development according to University Policy AA7.04 Program and Course Development.
- Course review by a designated faculty reviewer.
- Course approval by the Curriculum Committee.

- Approval requires that outcomes are appropriate at the course and program level.
- Verify that hours of engagement and preparation supplied by the course developer meet credit hour requirements.
- Two-thirds of the overall course content meets the criteria outlined to meet a course category.

All courses in General Education are expected to address at least one identified core principle to align with RN to BSN, RN to BSN Powered by *SIMPath*® and RN to BSN/MSN program outcomes and objectives. The following table outlines the four core principles and/or values.

University Principle	General Education Outcome
Leadership	Develop Communication Competency - Knowledge foundation that prepares students for Capstone Projects.
Scholarship	Knowledge Acquisition
Accountability	Students held accountable to academic standards and ethical conduct during their course of study.
Citizenship	Global Civic Engagement - Knowledge, skills, attitudes necessary to engage appropriately and effectively in globally diverse, interconnected environment. Students reflect on individual values and responsibilities in a global society.

Related Documents/References

- Student Handbook
- Academic Catalog
- AA7.04 Program and Course Development

Definitions

- None

Revision History

- 3/3/2014 – changed “goals” to “outcomes.”

- 8/12/2015 - changed from five to four categories of general education, removed references to associate and bachelor GIS programs, changed “provost” to “chief academic officer,” removed references to global civic engagement.
- 3/20/2018 Removed General Education committee from policy.
- 4/22/2019 Added language about SIMPath®
- 3/5/2020 Removed section on “State Specific Requirements” since we no longer offer those courses.
- May 7, 2020: Updated policy format for accessibility guidelines - AHB
- 3/1/2021: Updated branding for Post University - AHB