

Gen Ed Course Planning Guide

(for Students Admitted as Transfers, Fall 2019 and Later)

All students must satisfy:

- 1) university and general education requirements AND
- 2) school/college requirements AND
- 3) departmental/major requirements.

Note: Always consult your Academic Requirements Report (ARR) in SPIRE and/or an advisor for clarification.

GEN ED FOUNDATION: Students who have COMPLETED the Gen Ed Foundation at any Massachusetts public two-year or four-year institution will still need to take Junior Year Writing and Integrative Experience (IE) to fulfill the general education requirements at UMass Amherst.

STEM GEN ED FOUNDATION: Students who have COMPLETED the STEM Gen Ed Foundation at any Massachusetts public two-year institution will still need to take Junior Year Writing and Integrative Experience (IE). **In addition, these students must take (or have taken) one course in U.S. Diversity (DU) AND one course in Global Diversity (DG).** Students who do not transfer in both Diversity requirements are expected to take a DU or a DG (one that has not yet been satisfied) in their first year on campus.

ALL OTHER TRANSFERS: Students who have not completed either of the above foundations must complete the requirements outlined on the next page, being mindful of the following:

- a) From your major, one course may be applied to Junior Year Writing, one course may be applied to Integrative Experience, and one course may be applied to another Gen Ed requirement. In addition, one other course from your major may be used to fulfill a Diversity requirement (Gen Eds will be reevaluated if you change your major).
- b) Any course taken on a Pass/Fail basis will not fulfill Gen Ed requirements.
- c) No more than three Interdisciplinary (I) or Science Interdisciplinary (SI) courses may be applied to Gen Ed and Diversity requirements.

Gen Ed courses are identified by a specific designation of characters (*e.g.*: R2, SB, DG, etc...), which can be found in SPIRE. To monitor your Gen Ed progress, first go to your SPIRE Student Center. From the menu on the left, click on “Academics” and then “Academic Requirements.” For further information about the Gen Ed Program, please visit: <http://www.umass.edu/gened>

(Please see the next page for the Gen Ed requirements for students who have not completed either of the foundations above.)

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WRITING (2 courses) Students must complete one course in College Writing (CW) OR obtain a satisfactory score on either the Writing Placement Test or AP Language and Composition (only) exam. The Junior Year Writing course is to be taken in the student's major department.

_____ COLLEGE WRITING (CW)
_____ JUNIOR YEAR WRITING

BASIC MATHEMATICS and ANALYTICAL REASONING Students must complete one course in Basic Math Skills (R1) or get a satisfactory score on the Basic Math Skills (R1) Exemption Exam. The R1 requirement can also be satisfied with a higher-level R2 designated course that presupposes knowledge of basic math skills. Both the R1 and R2 requirements will be satisfied by passing an R2 designated course from the first group of courses on this list: <https://www.umass.edu/registrar/students/general-educationacademic-requirements/r1r2-gen-ed-requirements>. Courses in the second group on this list do not have an R2 designation and will only satisfy the R1 requirement. Whichever way a student satisfies the R1 requirement, a course in Analytical Reasoning (R2) must be completed.

_____ BASIC MATH SKILLS (R1)
_____ ANALYTICAL REASONING (R2)

BIOLOGICAL and PHYSICAL WORLD (2 courses)

_____ BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE (BS)
_____ PHYSICAL SCIENCE (PS)

SOCIAL WORLD (4 courses) The Social World requirements can be combined with the Diversity requirements (see below).

_____ ARTS (AT) or LITERATURE (AL)
_____ HISTORICAL STUDIES (HS)
_____ SOCIAL and BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (SB)
_____ SOCIAL WORLD (AL, AT, or SB) or INTERDISCIPLINARY (I or SI)

DIVERSITY (2 courses) Students must take (or have taken) one course that focuses on Diversity in the United States (DU) AND one course that focuses on Global Diversity (DG). Each course designated as DU or DG will also have a Social World designation (*e.g.*: ALDU, HSDG, SBDO, IDG, etc...). Students who do not transfer in both Diversity requirements are expected to take a DU or a DG (one that has not yet been satisfied) in their first year on campus.

_____ United States (DU)
_____ Global (DG)

ADDITIONAL GENERAL EDUCATION (2 courses) Two additional courses must be completed in any of the *above* Gen Ed areas EXCEPT writing. These additional courses ensure that transfer students earn the appropriate proportion of Gen Ed credits within their overall degree program.

INTEGRATIVE EXPERIENCE (3 credits, no code) Must be taken at UMass Amherst. Approved courses for each student appear on the Academic Requirements Report after Diversity or College requirements.