402.2 GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

General Education and other requirements for the associate degree shall include the following: a broad distribution of courses contributing to the student's general education emphasizing knowledge acquisition, comprehension, and evaluating ideas; the ability to think critically and creatively; and the capacity to communicate effectively. Students in both associate degree and certificate programs must meet certain general education requirements.

In 2008, legislation was enacted ensuring that credits earned by students graduating with an Associate in Arts (A.A.) or an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree are fully transferable to four-year public colleges. In order to ensure a consistency of educational standards statewide, the New Jersey President's Council has adopted the New Jersey Community College General Education Guiding Principles for Affirming Gen Ed Status ("Guiding Principles") as the required guide for general education transfer credits.

The Guiding Principles call for students to meet certain general education requirements in specific competency categories.[1] This includes the number of credits to be earned in each competency area. Each community college has the flexibility in determining curricula needs to align specific general education courses within these broad categories to individual program requirements. The categories are as follows:

- **Communication (Written and Oral Communications)**, defined as courses that prepare students to communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading designed to enhance facility in the English language including English Composition I, English Composition II, Speech or Interpersonal Communication.

- **Mathematics (Quantitative Knowledge and Skills)**, defined as any college level mathematics course that builds upon a demonstrated proficiency in basic algebra that uses mathematical and/or statistical concepts and operations to interpret data accurately and solve problems.

- **Science (Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning),** defined as any course whose primary focus is the scientific method and exploration of scientific principles and theory. Generally these courses are either biological or physical sciences (chemistry and physics).

- **Technology (Technological Competency)**, defined as courses that emphasize common computer/technology skills to access, analyze, or present information, solve problems, and communicate interactively. These courses cannot be limited to one application or programming language.

- **Social Science (Society and Human Behavior),** defined as any introductory course from among the disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology. This category excludes "applied" courses which are dependent on the theories and principles taught in the "introductory" courses.

- **History (Historical Perspective)**, defined as any broad-based course or sequence of courses in Western, non-Western, American History, or World Civilization. Survey courses that focus on a major time period or continent (such as Asia, Europe and Africa) are included

[1] Note that individual courses may meet the definition of more than one general education category.

along with courses that focus on a broad-based examination of historical perspectives (such as African-American History or Women in History). Courses that focus on a single ethnic, cultural, or social group are not included in this category.

- **Humanities (Humanistic Perspective)**, defined as any broad-based course in the history of or appreciation of art, music, or theater; literature; a foreign language; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or an additional broad-based history course meeting the definition of Historical Perspective (as shown above).

- **Diversity (Global and Cultural Awareness)**, defined as any course whose primary purpose is the study of culturally diverse people, including multicultural societies/peoples or the study of the diverse life experiences of societal subgroups. Societal groups may include those connected through race, class, gender, ethnicity, language, and religious orientation.

In addition to these requirements, the Guiding Principles call for colleges to integrate two additional goals into select courses. **Ethical Reasoning and Action** includes the study of the ethical implications of issues and situations. **Information Literacy** requires the College to ensure that students can locate, evaluate and effectively use information resources (such as print or web-based information sources).

The Guiding Principles also set the minimum General Education requirements for each associate degree and certificate program as follows:

- For the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree programs, the general education requirements shall total not less than forty-five (45) credit hours, in an array of representative courses in each of the following categories: communication; mathematics, science and technology; social science, humanities; history, and diversity courses.

- For the Associate in Fine Arts (A.F.A.) degree program, the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S) and the Associate in Science (A.S.) in Nursing, the general education requirements shall total not less than twenty (20) credit hours, in an array of representative courses from each of the following categories: communications, mathematics, sciences or technology; social sciences, and humanities.

- For all other Associate in Science (A.S.) degree programs, the General Education requirements shall total not less than thirty (30) credit hours, in an array of representative courses from each of the following categories: communications, mathematics, sciences or technology; social sciences, and humanities.

- For Certificate programs, the General Education requirements shall total not less than six (6) credits in general education.

Within the framework of the Guiding Principles, the curricula for degree and certificate programs shall be consistent with the institutional plan and programmatic mission of Warren County Community College.

These courses shall be reviewed as necessary by the statewide Course Review Committee or other designated statewide groups as part of an effort to ensure that all community colleges are in compliance with the Guiding Principles. Warren County Community College will update its

general education requirements in accordance with any approved changes in the Guiding Principles.

Warren County Community College shall publish the general education requirements by program in its catalog and make this information available on its website so that students are aware of individual degree requirements.

Revised: 01/13/10
Revised: 12/18/13
Revised: 12/20/17
Reaffirmed: 09/16/20