

2020 VISION:
Creating an Integrated General Education Program at SUNY Fredonia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Given that the skills most needed by students entering the workplace are those that our current general education program (the CCC) is not providing:

- Creative and critical thinking skills;
- Analytical reasoning skills;
- Oral and written communication skills;
- Cultural literacy; and
- Applied knowledge obtained through real-world experiences;

We propose a redesigned general education framework based upon best educational practices:

- FIRST YEAR COURSEWORK (9 credits)
 - First-Year '*Social Inquiry & Integrity*' Interdisciplinary Seminar
 - Quantitative Reasoning
 - Basic Written Communication
- WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM COURSEWORK (3 credits)
 - 2nd Writing Course (preferably within major)
- THEMATIC COURSEWORK (18 credits)
 - Three themes from which students are expected to take at least one course each:
 - *Creativity and Innovation*
 - *Critical Thinking and Analysis*
 - *Global Perspectives and Ethics*

The proposed program aligns with the SUNY General Education '7/10/30' model, while our current program, which would be described using the same terminology as a '10/10/36' model, incorporates requirements in excess of SUNY guidelines. The proposed model is also in-line with the SUNY 'seamless transfer' mandate.

Furthermore, the four themes of the overall general education framework were chosen to connect directly to the Baccalaureate Goals:

- Social Identity and Integrity (**Responsible**)
- Creativity and Innovation (**Creative**)
- Critical Thinking and Analysis (**Skilled**)
- Global Perspectives and Ethics (**Connected**)

Understanding the General Education Program



What is General Education?

General education curricula is based in the classical liberal arts tradition of “liberating education.” It refers to the broad knowledge and transferable skills that are necessary and common for all individuals regardless of major.

I’m just here for a degree. Why do I need General Education?

Today’s students are likely to change jobs, and even careers, several times over the course of their lives. With too narrow of an undergraduate education, an individual will be unprepared to deal with the changes that are an inherent aspect of the future.

General Education provides the durable, transferable skills that equip students to succeed in the long term.

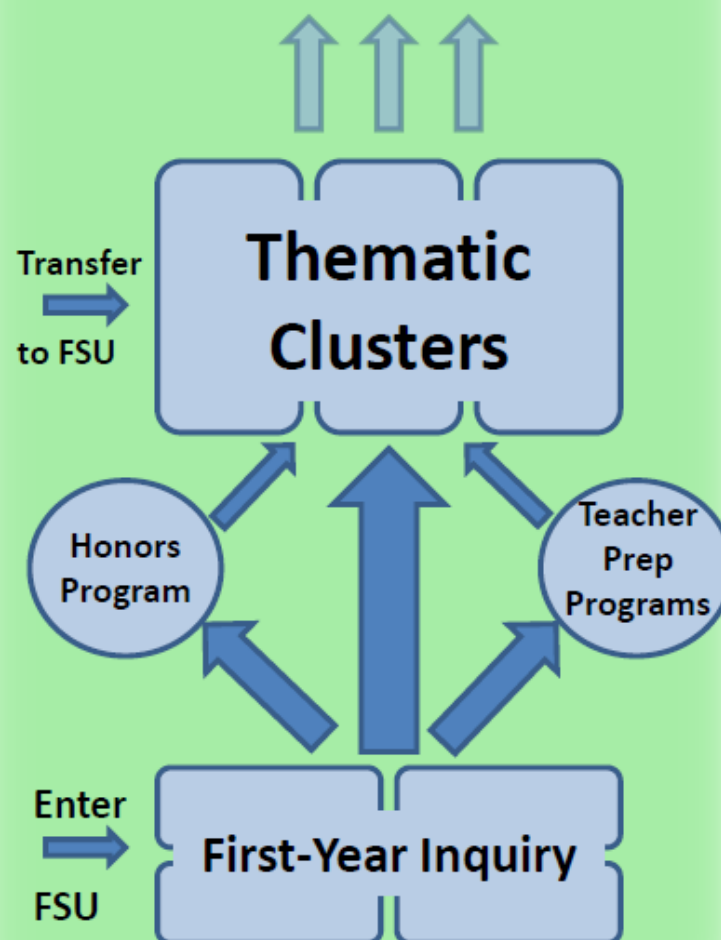
Employers desire employees who have the broad, general skills developed through general education, as well as some experience applying those skills in real-world settings.¹

Why SUNY Fredonia?

Based upon the best educational practices, and grounded upon understanding the skills college graduates need, the General Education Program at SUNY Fredonia is truly innovative and prepares students for their future.

¹Hart Research Associates (2010). *Raising the bar: Employers’ views on college learning in the wake of the economic downturn*. Available at www.aacu.org

Lifelong Learning & Engaged Citizenship



MISSION

To facilitate students’ acquisition of the knowledge and skills required to be creative, responsible, and engaged global citizens..

Thematic Coursework

The central core of the General Education Program engages students in courses which examine distinct themes from multiple perspectives. Students are expected to take at least one course from each of 3 themes:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Analysis
- Global Perspectives and Ethics

(18 credits)

Writing Across the Curriculum

Given the fundamental importance of written communication, students must take a second writing intensive course, preferably within their major area of study. **(3 credits)**

First-Year Inquiry

Entering students begin the general education program with a First-Year ‘Social Inquiry’ seminar, which complements additional first-year general education coursework in: Quantitative Reasoning and Writing. **(9 credits)**