

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.

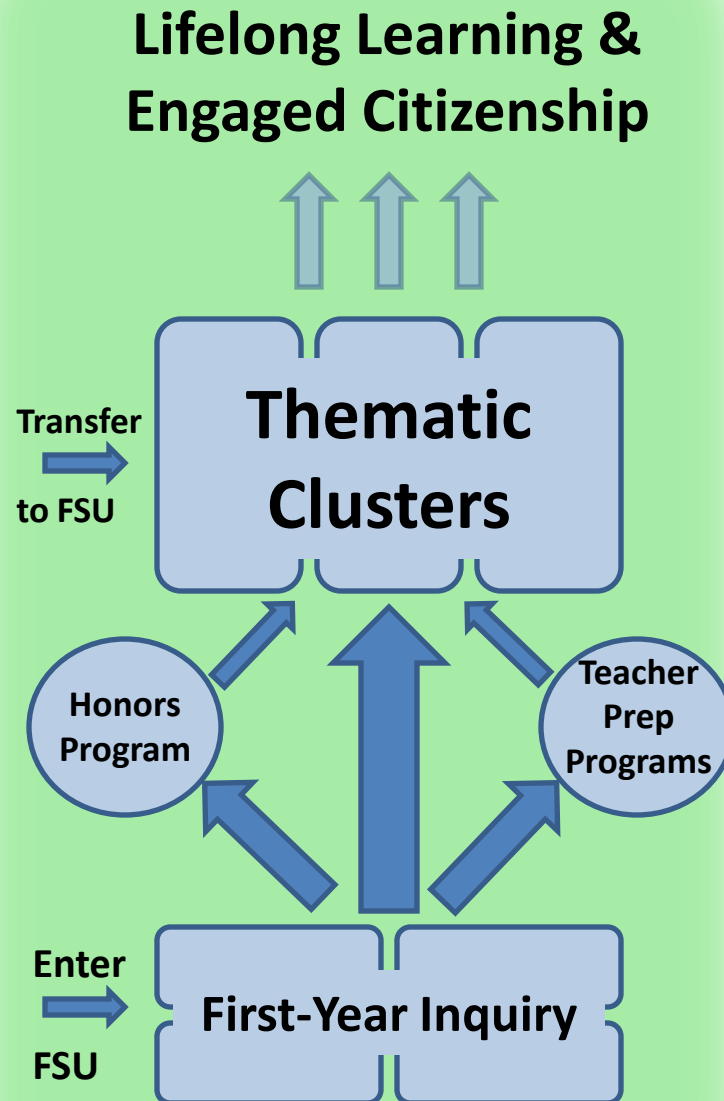
General Education provides the durable, transferable skills that equip students to succeed in the long term.

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



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)**