

AC510: General Education and Degree Breadth

Policy Title:	General Education and Degree Breadth
Policy Number:	AC510
Owner:	Sr. Vice President, Academic and Student Success
Approved by:	Senior Leadership Team
Effective Date:	September 2026
Reference:	
See also:	

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BACKGROUND

Definitions:

General Education Course: A general education course is a diploma-level course that addresses non-vocational content in a program of study. General Education courses must meet the requirements of the MCURES *Framework for Programs of Instruction*, 2009.

Themes: General Education courses must comply with at least one of the five general education themes detailed in the Framework: Art in Society; Civic Life; Social and Cultural Understanding; Personal Understanding; Science and Technology.

Degree Breadth: Degree breadth courses are elective courses offered in college degree programs. Breadth requirements in degree programs are established by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB). Degree-breadth courses are distinguished as lower- or upper-level.

Purpose:

To outline the definitions, responsibilities, and procedures related to the development and delivery of General Education and Degree Breadth courses, subject to provincial guidelines and quality assurance frameworks.

Scope:

This policy applies to all General Education courses delivered in diploma-level programs and to Degree Breadth courses delivered as electives in degree programs. Distinctions between the two—in terms of governing frameworks and requirements—are noted where necessary.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. General Education and Degree Breadth courses expose students to disciplines outside their main field of study. These courses aim to increase students' awareness of and engagement with the society and culture in which they live and work.
2. General Education courses must comply with one of the five general education themes, be a minimum of 3 credits in weight, and require no prerequisites. General Education courses are identified by a GENE course code.
3. Minimum requirements for General Education courses are determined by the Ontario Credentials Framework.
4. General Education courses will be offered using a combination of required and elective processes. General Education compliance will be reviewed in the five-year program review process.
5. Non-GENE courses that meet one of the five themes, have a minimum 3-credit weight (or equivalent), and contain non-vocational content for a given program may be considered as transfer credits for General Education courses.
6. Degree Breadth courses will be developed and delivered in degree programs in compliance with standards outlined by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB).
7. Degree Breadth courses enhance essential employability skills, including critical thinking, quantitative and qualitative reasoning, and communication. These courses focus on subject areas within the Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences.
8. Degree programs will include both lower-level (foundational) and upper-level (application) breadth courses.
9. General Education and Degree Breadth courses overseen by the General Education and Degree Breadth Committee to ensure compliance with applicable standards and an appropriate range of offerings. The committee will maintain and update the list of approved General Education courses, review proposals for new courses, and monitor Degree Breadth courses delivered using SLC and/or partner institution curricula for compliance and diversity of offerings.

MONITORING

It is the responsibility of the Senior Vice President, Academic and Student Success and the Deans/Associate Deans to ensure adherence to the policy and to interpret the policy.

NEXT POLICY REVISION DATE

September 2031