

## AC510: General Education and Degree Breadth

<b>Policy Title:</b>	General Education and Degree Breadth
<b>Policy Number:</b>	AC510
<b>Owner:</b>	Senior Vice President - Academic College
<b>Approved by:</b>	College Executive Team
<b>Effective Date:</b>	September 2021
<b>Reference:</b>	
<b>Links to Other Policy:</b>	

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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. Most General Education courses are chosen as electives, but occasionally a General Education course is mandated for all students in a program to complete. General Education courses must meet the requirements of the MTCU *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 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 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 will be monitored and reviewed by the General Education and Degree Breadth Committee to ensure compliance with standards and a sufficient variety of offerings. The committee will maintain a list of approved General Education courses and review proposals for new offerings. The committee will also monitor Degree Breadth courses offered using SLC and/or partner institution curricula to ensure variety and compliance.

## **MONITORING**

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

## **NEXT POLICY REVISION DATE**

September 2026

## **SPECIFIC LINKS**