

Academic Services and Programs

Undergraduate Programs

At The National Hispanic University, the academic year is organized on a semester system. Fall (August - December) and Spring (January - May), constitute the regular academic year followed by a Summer (June-August) session. The majority of NHU courses are equivalent to three (3) semester units of work. To accommodate the working adult, NHU has instituted a modular schedule. NHU offers five (5) modules per academic year for undergraduates, dividing the Fall and Spring semesters into two ten-week modules each and offering a six-week module during the Summer semester. While the modular schedule provides greater flexibility for students, it is not an accelerated program. Students may register at the beginning of any module.

The requirements for a bachelor's degree and associate degree are explained in this catalog. In scheduling their classes each semester, students should carefully follow the curricula, both for the General Education (GE) Breadth requirements and the Major requirements. It is highly recommended that students consult with their Academic Advisor and begin to note their courses in the academic planner.

During the Freshman year, students will start to satisfy the GE Breadth requirements. These courses will expose students to a range of academic subjects before concentrating on a major field of study. It is recommended that students complete their GE's by the end of their Sophomore year. During the Freshman and Sophomore years, students will take lower division required courses that prepare them for the major. In addition, students should plan to complete NHU Core Courses;

During the Junior and Senior years at NHU, students concentrate on the upper division requirements for the major and complete any remaining courses to fulfill the units required for graduation.

Academic Advising

The purpose of Academic Advising is to assist students to realize their educational goals through the development and implementation of a personal academic program. Academic advising

encompasses both academic learning as well as personal and professional growth and development.

Students are assigned individual Faculty Advisors at the time of admission into the University. Students meet at least once a semester with their advisors throughout their academic career at NHU.

Academic Advisors contribute to students' academic career by assisting them to:

- Understand NHU and its ideals, standards, policies, procedures and resources for students;
- Meet the challenge of being University students by establishing a clear relationship between the University's program and students' needs;
- Understand and appreciate their abilities, strengths and interests;
- Explore career options;
- Complete the "Academic Planning Form."

Graduation Requirements

It is the students' responsibility to comply with all regulations, and to satisfy all degree requirements.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the Chair of their major department or faculty advisor for proper advisement.

Department Chair will have the authority to approve substitutions for discontinued courses. Keep in mind that the University requires students declaring or changing their major to complete the Change of Major-Form.

A break in continuous attendance will make students subject to the requirements in effect at the time of re-enrollment.

"Continuous Attendance" at NHU means attendance in at least one semester each calendar year. Absence due to an approved educational leave or for attendance at another institution of higher learning shall not be considered an interruption in attendance, if the absence does not exceed one year.

All students who enter NHU are required to pass the Junior Level Writing Examination to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. Students should take the test during the first semester of their Junior year. The test may be taken as many times as needed to pass. Students who do not pass the test are strongly encouraged to sign up for a tutorial program in the Student Academic Assistance Center (SAAC). There is no administration fee.

Transfer Students

Graduation requirements for transfer students are the same as for undergraduates entering as Freshman. Exceptions to this general rule are incorporated in this catalog, or will be determined by the Department Chair. Prospective transfer students are urged to consult the general academic regulations for undergraduates (particularly those relating to graduation and academic residency requirements) and the section on the student's major. Students who transfer credits from community colleges and/or universities should request an evaluation of their transcript before planning their course of study.

Students Transferring from NHU

Students planning to transfer to San Jose State University may complete their lower division (freshman and sophomore) general education requirements, general electives, and some pre-major preparatory courses while at NHU. NHU has articulated its general education courses and many lower division courses with SJSU, but because some majors require very specific pre-major requirements that NHU many not offer, it is recommended that students see an academic advisor prior to enrolling to ensure that an academic plan is developed that is suitable to reach the student's academic goals. It is also highly advised that students interested in transferring to SJSU consult the SJSU catalog and website for admission updates and specific issues regarding the programs they are interested in.

To be eligible to transfer to SJSU as an upper division student, you must

Have a college grade point average of a 2.0 (2.4 GPA for non-residents) in all transferable college coursework.

Have completed 60 transferable semester units (90 quarter units), including 30 semester units of approved general education courses, including English composition, speech, critical thinking and a college-level math course.

Be in good standing at the last college attended.

Students with fewer than 60 transferable semester units must:

Must meet freshmen admission standard or make up any course deficiencies from high school preparation with college-level coursework.

Have a 2.0 GPA in all transferable college coursework.

Be in good standing at the last college attended.

Bachelor Degree

In order to meet the academic requirements for graduation with a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science Degree, students must:

- Complete a minimum of 125 semester units of college credits for the Bachelor of Arts degree and 128 semester units of college credits for the Bachelor of Science degree;
- Satisfy NHU General Education Breadth requirements as described in this catalog;
- Meet the requirements of Core Courses;
- Meet requirements for the major as described in the catalog;
- Complete a minimum of the University's 30 semester units residency requirement;
- Complete a minimum of 45 upper division units for graduation;
- Attain an overall grade point average of "C" (2.0) or higher with a "C" (2.0) or higher in all units attempted in the major;
- Satisfy the University's writing skills and computer proficiency requirements. Passing the university writing skills test, SAM 2000 computer proficiency test, satisfies the requirements.
- Satisfy the U.S. History and Constitution and American Ideals requirements. Taking U.S. History I (HIS 100) and History II (HIS 201) satisfy this requirement.

In addition, students must:

- File a Petition to Graduate with the Department Chair;
- Ensure that all financial obligations to the University have been met, including payment of outstanding fees.

General Education Breadth Requirement

Mission

The Mission of the General Education curriculum is to provide rigorous breadth of study in major fields of knowledge that will prepare students for a seamless transition into a prospective major or to transfer to another four-year university with junior standing.

Vision

The vision of the General Education curriculum at the National Hispanic University is to facilitate the acquisition of the knowledge, abilities, and attitudes that will form a foundation for lifelong learning among its students. This foundation includes the capacity to engage in inquiry and critical thinking, to use various forms of communication for learning and expression in a multicultural society, to gain an awareness of the broader human experience and its environment, and appreciate the responsibilities of persons to themselves, to each other, and to their community.

Goals

For most students, General Education presents the primary opportunity to engage in disciplined study of concepts and skills outside a general area of interest. General Education should have the effect of exposing the student to an overview of knowledge and thought different from that previously acquired or likely to be acquired in the remainder of his or her education. The intent of the General Education breadth requirement is to develop the individual student and to provide the foundation of future academic and career success. Students will develop skills on the intellectual and humanistic level and enhance their ability to develop a personal philosophy and make informed choices.

The goals of the General Education curriculum at the National Hispanic University are to:

1. Improve the student's ability in reading, writing, critical thinking, discussion and speaking skills; mathematical reasoning, analysis and problem solving; computer literacy, and the ability to access, evaluate, and apply information;
2. Instill sound, effective learning skills that will keep the student on a path of lifelong learning;

3. Enhance general knowledge and attitudes so that students have a well informed and coherent picture of the universe and humanity, including the living and non-living physical universe; human cultures, societies, and values; and the artistic and intellectual legacy of humanity;
4. Broaden knowledge about the impact, perspectives, and contributions provided by cultural, racial, ethnic, gender, cognitive, and global diversity; and
5. Provide, for each student, coherence, within broad areas of General Education.

Rationales and Organization

A fundamental goal of the National Hispanic University is to develop in its students the capacity to become life-long learners by offering a rigorous liberal arts education. The National Hispanic University recognizes that a sound Liberal Arts education is at the core of a quality higher education experience. General Education supports this goal by grouping fundamental skills- writing, critical thinking, and speaking, —into the Core requirements of General Education (9 units). The study of math, natural science, literature, art, humanities, behavioral sciences, and social sciences is contained in the breadth requirements (31 units), while the integration of those disciplines into a broader understanding of the world is emphasized in the upper division GE requirements (9 units). In every course, relevant skills of the Core requirements are applied to the process of mastering content and making applications.

General Education Breadth Requirements

General Education (40 lower division semester units and 9 upper division units) Core Courses: 9 units

Area A: Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking: 9 units minimum

A1. Oral Communication

SPC 100 3 units
Public Speaking

A2. Written Communication

ENG 100 3 units
English Composition and Reading

A3. Critical Thinking

PHL 200 3 units
Introduction to Logic

ENG 201 3 units
Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing
Across the Curriculum

Breadth courses: 31 units

Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life

Forms:

10 units minimum

B1. Physical Science

GEO 200 3 units
Physical Geography

B2. Life Science

BIO 100 3 units
General Biology

B3. Laboratory Activity 1 unit

BIO 100 Lab

B4. Mathematics and Quantitative reasoning

MAT 100 3 units
College Algebra

Area C: Arts, Literature, Philosophy, and Foreign Languages: 9 units minimum

C1. Arts (Art, Dance, Music, Theatre)

ART 100 3 units
Art Appreciation

C2. Humanities, Literature, and Letters

PHL 100 3 units
Introduction to Philosophy

and

ENG 250 3 units

Contemporary Multicultural Literature

Area D: Social, Political and Economic Institutions and Behavior:

3 units minimum

D1. Human Behavior

ANT 100 3 units
Introduction to Anthropology

PSY 100 3 units
Introduction to Psychology

D2. Comparative Systems

HIS 100 3 units
U.S. History I

D3. Social Issues

HIS 201 3 units

U.S. History II

Area E: Lifelong Understanding and Self:

3 units minimum

UNI 100 3 Units
First Year Seminar

OR

ANT 125 3 units
Human Understanding and Development

Area F: American Institutions:

Requirement is fulfilled by HIS 100 and HIS 201

Upper Division GE: 9 units minimum

Nine units of integrated and integrative course work, incorporating contents from Area A or Area B, and C and D:

Area I: Advanced Written Composition (3 units)

ENG 300 3 units
Advanced Writing Skills

Area II Human Expression Across the Globe

(3 units)

ENG 301 3 units
World Literature

OR

PHL 300 3 units
Personal, Professional, and Social Ethics

Area III: World Issues and Problems

(3 units)

HIS 414 3 units
World History I

OR

SPC 300 3 units
Argumentation and Advocacy of World Issues

American Institutions Requirement

Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 40404 requires that all students demonstrate an understanding of American history, the United States Constitution, and California state and local government. Courses needed to satisfy the U.S. History and Constitution requirement of the State of California are included in the General Education Breadth Requirements.