DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL EDUCATION

Mission

The Mission of the General Studies program 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 Studies Department 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.

Program 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 Studies program 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.

Program Rationales and Organization

A fundamental goal of the National Hispanic University is to develop in its students the capacity to become lifelong 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. The Department of General Studies supports this goal by grouping fundamental skills—writing, critical thinking, speaking, and information literacy—into the Core requirements of General Education (10 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

The General Studies Program
(41 lower division semester units and 9 upper division units)

Core Courses: 10 units

Area A: Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking: 10 units minimum
A1. Oral Communication
A2. Written Communication/Info Lit
A3. Critical Thinking

Breadth courses: 31 units

Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms: 10 units minimum
B1. Physical Science
B2. Life Science
B3. Laboratory Activity (1 unit)
B4. Mathematics and Quantitative reasoning

Area C: Arts, Literature, Philosophy, and Foreign Languages: 9 units minimum
C1. Arts (Art, Dance, Music, Theatre)
C2. Humanities, Literature, and Letters
   (Philosophy, Foreign Languages)

Area D: Social, Political and Economic Institutions and Behavior: 3 units minimum
D1. Human Behavior
D2. Comparative Systems
D3. Social Issues

Area E: Lifelong Understanding and Self:
3 units minimum

Area F: American Institutions: 6 units
Area 1. American History I and II

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. Writing Proficiency
   Area II. Human Expression Across the Globe
   Area III. World Issues and Problems

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.