

Basic Skills Policy

(Approved May 19, 2016)

All four sections of GE Basic Skills coursework must be completed by students within their first 60 units. Students must earn a C- or better grade in all four courses in order to satisfy the GE Basic Skills requirement. All first-time freshmen will have mandatory advisement starting with their initial enrollment at the University and continuing each semester until the completion of Basic Skills.

Coursework must be completed as follows:

Students will enroll in the appropriate writing and math courses as advised until they complete GE Writing and GE Math within the first four semesters or 60 units, whichever comes first. Students will enroll either simultaneously or within two consecutive semesters in GE Oral Communication and GE Writing. Students will enroll in GE Critical Thinking after completing GE Math (within their first 60 units).

1. Students will complete the appropriate course in the GE Analytical Reading and Expository Writing (AREW) sequence during their first year at CSUN. Students taking Stretch 113 or 114 must enroll in the course during their first semester at CSUN. Students taking 115 must enroll in that course in either of their first two semesters at CSUN. Students will continue to enroll in the appropriate GE AREW course until they have satisfied the GE AREW requirement.
2. Students will take either a GE Math course or a Developmental Math course during their first semester at CSUN. Students will continue to enroll in a developmental or GE Math course each semester until they have satisfied the GE Math requirement.
3. Students will complete coursework in GE Critical Thinking after they complete GE Math but still within their first 60 units.
4. Students will complete coursework in GE Oral Communication within their first 60 units.

Basic Skills Description in General Education:

Basic Skills coursework provides students with the knowledge and abilities that they will find useful and necessary for other GE and University courses and in their pursuits after graduation. These fundamental courses in Analytical Reading and Expository Writing, Critical Thinking, Mathematics and Oral Communication will teach students how to read to understand and write about complex topics, how to distinguish correct from faulty reasoning, how to study and appreciate mathematical ideas and quantitative reasoning, and how to make public presentations of their own thoughts and research. Students must complete this section within their first 60 units. One course in this section must include the Information Competence (IC) designation. Students must earn a C- or better grade in all four courses in order to satisfy the GE Basic Skills requirement.

Additional General Education Rules:

- A student may count for GE credit only one GE course that counts for major credit and is offered by the department of the major. The major departments have designated the course for this modification, which is indicated in the [General Education Pattern Modifications](#) and has been coded into the Degree Progress Report. GE courses offered in the major department but not required in the major program can apply to GE as listed.
- Courses taken to fulfill a particular GE requirement will continue to count for GE credit even after a student changes major. However, once a student changes the major, the student is responsible for fulfilling the GE requirements in the areas of GE that have not been completed.
- Changes or substitutions to GE that are specific to particular majors are listed in the [General Education Pattern Modifications](#) section or may be listed in the description of the major program. An academic advisor in the major should be consulted regarding these changes.
- Students must earn a C- or better grade in the four basic skills courses (Analytical Reading and Expository Writing, Critical Thinking, Mathematics and Oral Communication).