[**214 General Education**](https://policy.calpoly.edu/cap/200/cap-210#cap-214)

The General Education (GE) program is one of the primary means for realizing Cal Poly’s vision of a comprehensive polytechnic education. GE integrates all disciplines in a program of liberal education accessible to all Cal Poly students. GE complements the major and promotes an understanding and appreciation of the foundational disciplines that ground all intellectual inquiry. The program affords students the opportunity to contextualize the knowledge from their major programs by presenting relevant scientific, humanistic, artistic, and technological perspectives. Because Cal Poly students declare their major upon matriculation, their experience of GE develops side-by-side with the major. Through the university’s distinctive commitment to Learn by Doing, GE imparts transferable skills, nurtures creativity, fosters critical thinking and ethical decision-making, supports integrative learning, and prepares students for civic engagement and leadership. In GE, students work inclusively with peers from diverse intellectual, disciplinary, and social backgrounds. Cal Poly’s GE program also provides an opportunity for students to develop intellectual humility, an interdisciplinary mindset, and lifelong habits of mind.

**214.1 Program Goals**

Cal Poly's GE Program seeks to promote connections between the various areas so students and faculty will perceive GE courses as interrelated rather than isolated fragments. By placing basic knowledge in a larger context, each course in the program should provide a vision of how its subject matter is an important component of GE. Students should understand the value of a discipline being studied as well as its relationship to other disciplines. Students are encouraged to complete foundational courses as early as possible.

Lower-division coursework has been designed to give students the knowledge and skills to move to more complex materials. The three-course Area A: Communications sequence, for example, provides instruction and practice in the kinds of skills in writing, speaking, and critical thinking that students will need in later courses. Consequently, students are expected to complete this sequence during their freshman year, and by no later than the end of their sophomore year.

**214.2 Administrative Structure**

Cal Poly's General Education (GE) program is the curricular responsibility of the Academic Senate General Education Governance Board (GEGB) and the administrative responsibility of the Executive Director of Academic Programs and Planning.

The GEGB is responsible for leading and developing a visionary, high-quality GE program that enriches the specialized knowledge acquired in a major program with foundational and integrative understandings of its humanistic, scientific, artistic, and technological contexts. The GEGB is responsible for fostering and refining a vision of GE that is responsive to statewide, national, and international values in general education, local campus interests and emphases, and opportunities for positive change.

For more information about the General Education Program, refer to the Cal Poly Catalog or the GE website: <http://www.ge.calpoly.edu/index.htm>

**Reference for 214**

1. Date approved by the President: May 24, 2006
2. Office responsible for implementation: Academic Programs and Planning
3. Related University Policies/Documents/Manuals/Handbooks:

- AS-472-97/gebadhoc

- AS-478-97/gebadhoc

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-986-25 Resolution on Template for General Education 2026 <https://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/academicsenate/1/images/AS-986-25.pdf>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-974-24 Resolution on Consolidation of GE Area C Subject Guidelines and Modification of GE Area C2: Humanities Prerequisites <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/970/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-938-22 Resolution on AB 928 and Common GE Pathway <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/935/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-941-22 Resolution on AB 928 and CSU GE Golden Four <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/932/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-913-21 Resolution to Establish Area F in the General Education 2020 Template <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/916/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-914-21 Resolution on Subject Area Guidelines for General Education Area F: Ethnic Studies <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/915/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-926-21 Resolution on General Education and Languages Other Than English <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/947/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-873-19 Resolution on Template for General Education 2020 <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/866/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-879-19 Resolution on Subject Area Guidelines (I) for General Education 2020 <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/860/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-889-20 Resolution on Subject Area Guidelines (II) for General Education 2020 <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/897/>

- Academic Senate Resolution AS-851-18 Resolution on Migration of Current Area D4 Classes to Area E <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/senateresolutions/847/>

1. Any laws, regulations or codes of practice which should be referred to in conjunction with the policy: Title 5, Section 40405; Executive Order 595
2. CSU Policies: CSU General Education (GE) Requirements (effective May 6, 2024) <https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/13059034/latest/>