

IGETC AND GE

PREPARING TO TRANSFER TO UC DAVIS

How should students prepare academically to transfer to UC Davis? Are general education courses more important than courses that prepare students for their majors? Is the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum appropriate for every transfer student? What academic background serves transfer students best at UC Davis?

WHAT IS IGETC?

The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) is a program that transfer students use to fulfill lower-division general education (GE) requirements in the UC or CSU system without the need to take additional lower-division GE classes after transferring. Depending on the transfer campus, there may be additional non-GE, lower-division graduation requirements to be met (e.g., a foreign language, multicultural studies), as well as upper-division GE requirements.

UC Davis faculty advise prospective transfer students to take as many courses as possible to prepare for upper-division work in their major. **Prepare for your major. Use IGETC only if it fits with your major's academic preparation plan.**

THE BEST PREPARATION TO TRANSFER

Students who plan to transfer should place highest priority on completing key courses for their major before trying to satisfy UC Davis GE or Breadth requirements, or before trying to complete IGETC. Major preparation gives transfer students the academic background required to have the best opportunity to complete their degrees. In addition, successful preparation for the major often is considered when admission decisions are made. Admission to the following majors requires the completion of specific preparatory courses before transferring: biotechnology; communication; international relations; psychology; viticulture and enology; all majors in the Colleges of Biological Sciences and Engineering.

UC Davis accepts certification by any California community college that a prospective transfer student has completed IGETC, but does not consider IGETC when reviewing applications for admission.

IGETC COULD BE FOR YOU

Students may wish to consider completing IGETC if they are applying for admission to majors with few lower-division preparatory courses, such as art history, art studio, English, history and political science. IGETC satisfies UC Davis GE requirements, lower-division Breadth requirements, and the Foreign Language requirement in the Colleges of Letters and Science and Biological Sciences.

Students should still take courses for their major as they work toward satisfying IGETC, even if the major has few preparatory requirements. Courses that satisfy IGETC may also satisfy major preparation. Students should work with their community college counselors to learn which courses satisfy the IGETC pattern, and which courses also satisfy major preparation.

WHEN IGETC IS NOT A GOOD CHOICE

Students should not pursue IGETC if they are thinking of transferring to majors with substantial preparatory work, including all majors in the Colleges of Biological Sciences and Engineering. Majors in the Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Letters and Science that require substantial preparation in math and science include, but are not limited to, chemistry, environmental toxicology, food science, nutrition science, physics and viticulture and enology. Remember:

- Completing IGETC should come second to preparing for the major.
- IGETC is not part of the admissions requirements for UC Davis.
- IGETC is an optional course pattern for completing certain graduation requirements.

KNOWING THE COURSES TO TAKE

UC Davis has extensive course agreements with all California community colleges. Known as Transfer Course Agreements (TCAs), they list faculty articulation decisions regarding the community college courses that are acceptable in place of UC Davis courses. These TCAs help students know which courses to take to prepare for their major. Students should work closely with community college counselors and with UC Davis advisers to plan their transfer preparation.

All UC Davis course and major information is available online at the ASSIST Web site developed by the University of California, California State University and California community colleges. Access ASSIST at www.assist.org.

GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) AT UC DAVIS

General Education (GE) is a graduation requirement for all UC Davis students, regardless of their major. Certification of IGETC fulfills this GE requirement; however College of Engineering students may still have UC Davis upper division GE requirements to complete. Students not following or certifying completion of IGETC at their community college may fulfill all or part of the UC Davis GE requirement before they transfer.

The UC Davis GE requirement promotes the intellectual growth of all undergraduates by ensuring that they acquire a breadth of knowledge that will enlarge their perspectives beyond the focus of a major and serve them well as participants in a knowledge-based society.

Transfer courses, comparable to approved UC Davis GE courses, can fulfill GE. Courses taken to satisfy the UC Davis GE requirement, however, must be completed with a letter grade. UC Davis courses that meet the three GE components are published in the UC Davis General Catalog and the Class Schedule and Registration Guide. Students at California community colleges with current UC Davis course-to-course articulation will find the GE articulation on ASSIST at www.assist.org. Look to these resources for additional information.

The Three Components of UC Davis GE

1. Topical Breadth Component (TB) – 6 courses

Two topical breadth areas outside the field of a student's major must be completed for GE. To determine the assignment of a major to a GE topical breadth area, consult the UC Davis General Catalog or the Class Schedule and Registration Guide. Multiple majors and minors will fulfill GE in their assigned areas.

3 courses, Arts & Humanities (AH)

Courses in this area provide students with knowledge of significant intellectual traditions, cultural achievements, and historical processes.

3 courses, Science and Engineering (SE)

Courses in this area provide students with knowledge of major scientific ideas and applications. They seek to communicate the scope, power, limitations and appeal of science.

3 courses, Social Sciences (SS)

Courses in this area provide students with knowledge of the individual, social, political and economic activities of people.

2. Writing Experience Component (W) – 3 courses

The university Entry-Level Writing Requirement must be satisfied before taking any writing experience course for GE credit. Certain GE courses may not be used to satisfy university or college requirements in composition and in the GE writing experience component simultaneously.

3. Social-Cultural Diversity Component (D) – 1 course

Courses in social-cultural diversity teach students the significance of the many patterned differences that characterize human populations—particularly differences of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion or social class.

Approved GE courses that meet the topical breadth component can also fulfill the writing experience and the social-cultural diversity components! For example, a single course might provide GE credit for topical breadth, writing experience, and social-cultural diversity.

GE theme options are an alternative approach to meeting the university's GE requirement; a GE Scholars program exists as an extension of the GE themes. More information about theme options can be found at gescholars.ucdavis.edu.

More details regarding General Education are available in the UC Davis General Catalog at registrar.ucdavis.edu/UCDWebCatalog/, the UC Davis Class Schedule and Registration Guide, available at registrar.ucdavis.edu/csrg/ and on ASSIST at www.assist.org. Consult the UC Davis Dean's Office associated with your major to determine exactly how GE courses will be applied.

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