

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY ON GENERAL EDUCATION

The baccalaureate programs at Clarion University consist of both specialized and liberal studies. Specialized education--in other words, a major--gives students some depth of knowledge in an academic discipline and perhaps in a potential career area. Liberal education substantiates disciplined study; students develop bases and contexts for their specializations, for their university lives, and for their lives after graduation.

Broad Student Learning Outcomes

- (1) Students graduating from Clarion University will reason effectively
- (2) Students graduating from Clarion University will communicate effectively
- (3) Students graduating from Clarion University will write effectively
- (4) Students graduating from Clarion University will use information effectively
- (5) Students graduating from Clarion University will use technology effectively
- (6) Students graduating from Clarion University will know a natural scientific method for understanding the world
- (7) Students graduating from Clarion University will effectively apply their knowledge of the natural sciences
- (8) Students graduating from Clarion University will know a social scientific method for understanding the world
- (9) Students graduating from Clarion University will effectively apply their knowledge of the social sciences
- (10) Students graduating from Clarion University will know an artistic/humanistic method for understanding the world
- (11) Students graduating from Clarion University will effectively apply their knowledge of the arts/humanities
- (12) Students graduating from Clarion University will understand the value of and be respectful of diversity
- (13) Students graduating from Clarion University will understand appropriate ethical and professional behavior
- (14) Students graduating from Clarion University will know and appreciate the importance of wellness
- (15) Students graduating from Clarion University will effectively apply their knowledge of wellness
- (16) Students graduating from Clarion University will work independently and interact effectively with others

(approved by Clarion University Faculty Senate in spring 2007)

Ideally, liberal studies give students space and time to develop academic skills; to acquire liberal knowledge; to shape their values; and to apply all three (skills, knowledge, values) to their lives. At Clarion University, the General Education Program is committed to these ideals.

Statement of Requirements

A. Students must complete 12 credits of Liberal Education Skills courses as follows:

- English Composition (three credits). The English composition requirement is met by completing English 111: Writing II. First year students, and transfer students who have not completed an English course equivalent to the university's required English course must complete the university's English Placement Test. Based on test results, students place directly into English 111, or into English 110 (Writing I), completion of which (with a C or better) qualifies them to enroll in the required English 111. (See Rationale, below). Appendix C and D provide the learning outcomes for English composition classes.
- Mathematics Requirement (three credits). The mathematics requirement is met by completing at least three credits of mathematics numbered MATH 111 or higher, excluding Math 290, 295, 390, 490, 492, and 495. (See Rationale, below.)

All students entering the university will be assessed prior to their initial registration for classes in order to assess their mathematics skills. Students who place below the minimum entry mathematical skills level must complete the appropriate remediation class or classes. Mathematics remediation classes do not count toward General Education credits.

Upon successful completion of the appropriate remediation class or classes (with a grade of C or better), students may enroll in classes that meet the university mathematics requirement.
- Liberal Education Skills Electives (sufficient to total 12 credits in the Liberal Education Skills area). Students must select courses in at least two of these areas: academic enrichment, communication, computer and information science, elementary foreign language, English composition, logic, mathematics, or speech communication.

B. Students must complete 27 credits of Liberal Knowledge courses, distributed among three categories:

- Physical and Biological Sciences (9 credits). Students must select courses from at least two of the following disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Mathematics, Physical Science, or Physics
- Social and Behavioral Science (9 credits). Students must select courses from at least two of the following disciplines: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, or Women's Studies
- Arts and Humanities (9 credits). Students must select courses from at least two of the following disciplines: Art, English, Humanities, Language and Literature, Intermediate Foreign Language and Cultures, Music, Philosophy, or Speech and Theater.

C. Students complete, if necessary, General Education Elective courses to total the 48 credits required in the General Education Program.

D. Students must complete HPE 111, a two-credit course focused on issues of health and wellness, and at least one personal performance course.

- E. Students must complete two Writing Intensive (W) flagged courses. Ideally, students should select one W flagged class from General Education offerings, and one from the major. Appendix E provides the learning outcomes for writing intensive classes.
- F. Students must complete one Quantitative Reasoning (Q) flagged course either within or beyond the General Education program.
- G. Students must complete two Values (V) flagged courses. During their first year, students must complete a First-year V flagged course. First year Values courses examine the intellectual and cultural context in which values are formed. Subsequently, students must complete at least one additional V flagged course. These courses emphasize values inquiry. Students should select courses in General Education and in their majors carefully to ensure they complete two courses that, in addition to qualifying for general education or the major, are flagged as "values" courses.
- H. Transfer students are required to satisfy the requirements of the General Education Program, with the following adjustments:
- If a student transfers more than 24 credits,
 - the first year values flag (V) is waived
 - one writing intensive flag (W) is waived