



The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates - University of California - The California State University - California Community Colleges

# Cal-GETC Standards, Policies, and Procedures Version 1.4

## Summary of Substantial Changes

The updates included in Cal-GETC Standards, Policies, and Procedures 1.4 are...

**Table: Clarifying Language and Revisions Added to 1.4 Cal-GETC Standards Document Section(s)**

SECTION(S)	CHANGES/ADDITIONS IN RED
1.1	<p>Revised:            The California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) is the singular general education pathway for California Community College (CCC) students to fulfill lower-division general education requirements necessary for <del>transfer and</del> admission <del>and transfer</del> to both the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC). The curriculum and its policies are overseen by the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS), representing faculty from California’s three segments of public higher education.</p>
1.2	<p>Updated link:            Beginning in Fall 1981, CCC students were able to use the statewide CSU General Education-Breadth pattern (CSU GE) to meet lower-division general education requirements if transferring to the CSU. This lower-division component of the CSU GE pattern was predominantly used by CCC students who transferred to a CSU campus. For these CSU-bound students, the CSU GE- Breadth requirements were defined within Title 5 and in executive orders defining the CSU GE pattern (cf., <a href="#">CSU General Education Breadth Requirements</a>).</p>
1.2	<p>Changed to past tense:            The use of the Cal-GETC transfer pathway <del>began is intended to begin</del> Fall 2025 of the 2025-26 Academic Year. Under Cal-GETC, every student will be designated simply as having achieved, or not having achieved, Cal-GETC certification irrespective of their transfer destination. Transfer students with catalog rights prior to Fall 2025 will be able to maintain their use of their CSU GE Breadth or IGETC pattern for GE certification to the extent permitted by the relevant programs and institutions.</p>

## SECTION(S)

## CHANGES/ADDITIONS IN RED

Reformatted to reduce repetition:

**Summary Table for Areas of Distribution for Cal-GETC**

Courses are 3 semester or 4 quarter units, except Area 5C is 1 unit.

CAL-GETC SUBJECT AREAS	SUBJECT AREA DESCRIPTIONS	COURSES PER SUBJECT AREA
Area 1 – English Communication	<p><b>One course from each 1A, 1B, and 1C subject area.</b></p> <p>Area 1A: English Composition—<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del></p> <p>Area 1B: Critical Thinking and Composition—<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del></p> <p>Area 1C: Oral Communication—<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del></p>	<del>3 courses (9 semester or 12 quarter units)</del>
Area 2 – Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	<b>One course in Area 2.</b>	<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del>
Area 3 – Arts and Humanities	<p><b>One course from each 3A and 3B subject area.</b></p> <p>Area 3A: Arts—<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del></p> <p>Area 3B: Humanities—<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del></p>	<del>2 courses (6 semester or 8 quarter units)</del>
Area 4 – Social and Behavioral Sciences	<b>Two courses from two academic disciplines or in an interdisciplinary sequence.</b>	<del>2 courses (6 semester or 8 quarter units)</del>
Area 5 – Physical and Biological Sciences	<p><b>One course from each 5A and 5B subject area. One of the two courses must include a laboratory.</b></p> <p>Area 5A: Physical Science—<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del></p> <p>Area 5B: Biological Science—<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del></p> <p>Area 5C: Laboratory—<del>(1 semester or 1 quarter unit)</del></p>	<del>2 courses (7 semester or 9 quarter units)</del>
Area 6 – Ethnic Studies	<b>One course in ethnic studies or in a similar field provided that the course is cross-listed with ethnic studies.</b>	<del>1 course (3 semester or 4 quarter units)</del>
TOTAL	11 courses (34 semester or 45 quarter units)	

SECTION(S)	CHANGES/ADDITIONS IN RED
3.1	<p>Revised:  Completion of the Cal-GETC is <del>neither</del> an admission requirement <del>nor</del> an admission guarantee for transfer to the CSU or UC, nor is it the only way to fulfill the lower-division, general education requirements for students at the CSU or UC. However, Cal-GETC may be a requirement for some programs (e.g., if an ADT is required) and under AB 928 is the “singular lower division general education pathway that meets the academic requirements necessary for transfer admission to the California State University and the University of California.”</p> <p>For the UC, students may choose to complete <b>a seven-course pattern coursework to fulfill UC’s systemwide Eligibility Areas as well as major preparation meet the campus general education</b> requirements <del>for</del> the <del>university</del> program to which they plan to transfer. For the CSU, some students may elect to take courses to fulfill the CSU’s general education requirements (CSU GE) after transfer, but such a course of action would be inconsistent with the intent of AB 928.</p>
4	<p>Added (moved from 5.2.2):  <b>Certification of coursework completed for Cal-GETC will be honored provided that a course was on a college’s approved Cal-GETC certification course list on the ASSIST site when it was completed.</b>  <b>Although California Community College courses may be listed in more than one area, they can only be applied to one area during Cal-GETC certification for each individual student.</b></p>
5.1.1	<p>Updated dates and revised:  Example: A course submitted in December of <del>2026</del><b>2025</b>, and approved in May <del>2027</del><b>2026</b>, becomes effective on Cal-GETC beginning Fall <del>2027</del><b>2026</b>. If a course is not approved for Cal-GETC inclusion, detailed reasons for denial will be provided to the CCC. The CCC may then modify their <del>course</del> outline of record and resubmit in the following <del>submission</del> cycle.</p>
5.1.2	<p>Revised:  Occasionally, during the Cal-GETC review cycle certain existing Cal-GETC course(s) are reviewed to verify that they <del>course(s)</del> continue to meet the Cal-GETC standards. Course(s) found to not meet Cal-GETC standards will be scheduled for phasing out but allowed to remain on the CCC Cal-GETC approved list for at least two academic years. This allows the CCC time to submit a revised course outline for review, if appropriate.</p> <p>Example: As a result of re-review, a CCC may be notified in Spring <del>2026</del><b>2025</b> that their ART 101 course outline of record was determined to no longer meet <del>the</del> Cal-GETC Standard for 3A (Arts). <del>Because the Cal-GETC standard for 3A (Arts) did not differ from IGETC standards, the</del> <b>The</b> ART 101 course will remain effective on Cal-GETC in area 3A (Arts) through Summer <del>2028</del><b>2027</b>.</p>
5.1.3	<p>Revised:  Identifying the course textbook(s) (or <del>textbooks/textbook</del>-equivalents) is a required element of the submission process:</p>
5.1.4	<p>Added:  GE review requires CCCs to have curriculum approved (e.g., college curriculum committee or college/district board) for cross-listing before submitting course outlines of record. Course outlines of record for cross-listed courses are <b>identical</b> in title, description, objectives, content, methods of instruction, methods of evaluation, textbooks/readings, and assignments but may have a different prefix <b>and/or number</b>. All approved cross-listed courses must appear together or with an annotation in official college publications.</p>
5.2.1	<p>Revised title to clarify section is only between CCCs:  <b>5.2.1 Intra-<del>and Inter</del>-segmental transfer of Cal-GETC Courses towards Cal-GETC certification</b></p>

SECTION(S)	CHANGES/ADDITIONS IN RED
5.2.1	<p>Deleted (moved to 5.2.2) and revised:  <del>In a similar manner, if a student has taken a course or courses at a UC or CSU counted for GE areas corresponding to, and which could qualify to meet the standards for, Cal-GETC areas, it is generally appropriate for CCCs to certify the course(s) towards completion of those corresponding areas of the Cal-GETC pattern.</del>            If a A course from a California Community College public higher education that does not explicitly carry Cal-GETC area approval certification, cannot be applied to it is inappropriate to awarded Cal-GETC certification credit (exceptions are IGETC (see Section 10.2)).</p>
5.2.2	<p>Renamed section, deleted (moved to 4), added (moved from 5.2.1 and 5.2.3), and revised:  <b>5.2.2 Applying CSU and UC Courses to Cal-GETC California Community College Course Application Rights</b>  <del>Certification of coursework completed for Cal-GETC will be honored provided that a course was on a college's approved Cal-GETC certification course list on the ASSIST site when it was completed.</del>  <del>Although California Community College courses may be listed in more than one area, they can only be applied to one area during Cal-GETC certification for each individual student.</del>            If a student has taken a course or courses at a UC or CSU counted for GE areas corresponding to, and which could qualify to meet the standards for, Cal-GETC areas, it is generally appropriate for CCCs to certify the course(s) towards completion of those corresponding areas of the Cal-GETC pattern.            If a course from a CSU or UC does not carry a GE designation, then it cannot be applied to Cal-GETC certification.</p>
5.2.3	<p>Renamed section:  <b>5.2.3 Applying Non-California Independent, Private, and/or Out-of-State Higher Education Community College Courses to Cal-GETC</b></p>
5.2.3	<p>Deleted redundancy:            Note: In all cases, these courses should be carefully assessed in order to assure the course offering has sufficient breadth to meet the intent of the Cal-GETC standards.  <del>If a course from a California public higher education institution does not explicitly carry Cal-GETC area certification, it is almost always inappropriate to award Cal-GETC credit.</del></p>
5.2.4	<p>Added:            When a non-CCC course is determined to be comparable to one taught and approved for Cal-GETC at a CCC, it may be applied to Cal-GETC regardless of its upper-division status provided that it meets the standards and criteria for inclusion in the Cal-GETC area and would otherwise be Cal-GETC eligible.</p>
5.4.4	<p>Revised:            Summary of Non-Applicable Courses: <del>including, but not limited to, the following-</del> Courses not transferable to the CSU and UC using Cal-GETC <del>include, but are not limited to, the following:</del></p>

## SECTION(S)

## CHANGES/ADDITIONS IN RED

Corrected titles to match College Board:

AP EXAMINATION	CAL-GETC AREA
Art History	3A or 3B
Biology	5B and 5C
Calculus AB	2
Calculus BC	2
Calculus BC/ AB sub score	2
Chemistry	5A and 5C
Chinese Language <del>and</del> Culture	3B
Comparative Government <del>and</del> Politics	4
English Language <del>and/</del> Composition	1A
English Literature <del>and/</del> Composition	1A or 3B
Environmental Science	5A and 5C
European History	3B or 4
French Language <del>and</del> Culture	3B
German Language <del>and</del> Culture	3B
Human Geography	4
Italian Language <del>and</del> Culture	3B
AP EXAMINATION	CAL-GETC AREA
Japanese Language <del>and</del> Culture	3B
Latin	3B
Macroeconomics	4
Microeconomics	4
Physics 1: Algebra-Based	5A and 5C
Physics 2: Algebra-Based	5A and 5C
Physics C: Mechanics	5A and 5C
Physics C: Electricity <del>and/</del> Magnetism	5A and 5C
Psychology	4
Spanish Language <del>and</del> Culture	3B
Spanish Literature <del>and</del> Culture	3B
Statistics	2
<del>United States</del> <del>U.S.</del> Government <del>and</del> Politics	4
<del>United States</del> <del>U.S.</del> History	3B or 4
World History: Modern	3B or 4

6.1

SECTION(S)	CHANGES/ADDITIONS IN RED
6.1	<p>Revised:  <i>Note: AP exams that have been discontinued are not shown on this table. A student <del>with catalog rights may be able to use the</del> may use a now discontinued exam if accepted under the comparable <b>Subject Area</b> of IGETC or <del>under</del> Cal-GETC at the time the exam was taken.</i></p> <p>Example: If a U.S. History <b>course</b> at a CCC is approved for Cal-GETC Area 3B (<i>Humanities</i>), then the U.S. History AP exam may be used for Cal-GETC Area 3B (<i>Humanities</i>, via local articulation) or Area 4 (<i>Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>, via Cal-GETC credit by exam equivalency).</p>
6.1	<p>Updated link:  The <a href="#">UC Policy for AP credit</a></p>
6.2	<p>Updated title:  <b>INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) EXAM   CAL-GETC AREA</b></p>
6.2	<p>Revised:  <del>1</del><i>Note: <b>IB exam</b> courses that have been discontinued are not shown on this table. A student <del>with catalog rights may be able to use a</del> now discontinued <b>exam</b> if accepted under the directly comparable <b>Subject Area</b> of IGETC or under Cal-GETC at the time the <b>exam</b> was taken.</i></p>
6.2	<p>Updated link:  The <a href="#">UC Policy for IB credit</a></p>
9.1.1	<p>Revised:  The main focus of this area and its primary activities involve the practices of academic writing. The instructional goal of the course is to help students practice recursive stages of writing, <del>and</del> to teach students how to make informed decisions in response to varied writing situations, <del>and build rhetorical awareness — student abilities that transfers to writing</del> across the curriculum.</p>
9.1.1.A	<p>Added language to align with UC Transfer Eligibility Area E:  <b>Appropriate Readings</b>  <b>Courses must include a writing handbook or evidence of similar writing pedagogy. Courses should also require a substantial amount of reading.</b></p>
9.1.1.A	<p>Revised:  <b>Quantity of Writing</b>  <del>Students should compose a minimum of 5000 words of formal writing across their major assignments, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.</del>  <b>Must include substantial instruction and practice in writing at the college level with a minimum of 5,000 words of scaffolded writing appropriate for academic contexts across major assignments.</b></p>
9.1.1.A	<p>Revised:  English <b>Language for Multilingual Students courses (ELMS)</b> <del>as a Second Language courses (ESL)</del> with content that is exclusively language-acquisition focused.</p>
9.1.1.B	<p>Revised title:  <b>9.1.1.B Additional <del>Non-Traditional</del> Course Structures</b></p>

SECTION(S)	CHANGES/ADDITIONS IN RED
9.1.1.B	Revised: English Composition for <b>multilingual students-ESL</b> courses may be approved for Cal-GETC Area 1A ( <i>English Composition</i> ) if the course content is not predominantly developmental and includes content comparable to a Cal-GETC Area 1A ( <i>English Composition</i> ) course (Section 9.1.1).
9.1.2	Revised and added language to align with UC Transfer Eligibility Area E: Students will demonstrate their understanding of these critical concepts and processes through the analysis and construction of arguments, especially in research and written work that attends appropriately to audience, purpose, context, genre, and language conventions. A minimum of 5,000 words of writing is required. This 5,000-word requirement may include a combination of process drafts, written peer response, and other forms of informal writing which informs students' inquiry-driven research and writing process. Students should revise and receive feedback on at least one extended argument from their instructors. <b>Courses should require significant reading and analysis of written texts and must use a writing handbook or similar writing pedagogy.</b> Texts chosen for critical analysis should reflect an awareness of cultural diversity and instructors should attend to fairness, equity, and access as guiding principles for curricular design and assessment. Courses should offer opportunities for students to reflect on their learning, their knowledge, and their writing processes to enable the possibility of knowledge transfer across the curriculum.
9.1.3	Revised: <b>The course must have a substantial focus on rhetorical principles (e.g., study of effective communication in formal speeches). Discipline or career-specific oral communication courses are not a good fit. Note: Certification of a course for CSU GE-Area A1 (Oral Communication) does not necessarily imply that the course could meet Cal-GETC Area 1C (Oral Communication) requirements (see section 5.1.1).</b>
9.3.2	Update section: Courses which focus on technique, skills or performance do not meet the Cal-GETC Area 3A ( <i>Arts</i> ) requirement (e.g., courses in beginning drawing, beginning painting, and readers theater and oral interpretation courses focusing primarily on performance and/or skills-building) (see Section 5.43.1).
9.3.3	Added what was accidentally deleted in V.3: Acceptable Humanities courses are those that encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic, religious and cultural importance. Advanced foreign language and ESL courses (which do not have a principal focus on skills <b>acquisition</b> ) <b>may be approved if they include substantial literary or cultural aspects. Theater and film courses may be approved if taught with emphasis on substantial historical, literary, or cultural aspects.</b>
9.5.3	Added: 1 Physical Science corresponding Lab, 1 semester unit <b>Conclusion: Area 5 satisfied</b>
9.6	Revised: CCC courses for Area 6 could be written with both CSU and/or UC Ethnic Studies Core Competencies requirements in mind, but the courses must meet either the CSU or UC Ethnic Studies Core Competencies requirement.

SECTION(S)	CHANGES/ADDITIONS IN RED
9.6	<p>Added:            CCC Ethnic Studies courses that existed prior to 2020, the passage of AB 1460 (Weber), will be given extra consideration during the Cal-GETC review process.</p>
9.6.1	<p>Revised:            As described in Article 6 in the CSU General Education <del>Breadth</del> Requirements, CSU campuses may certify upper-division ethnic studies courses to satisfy the lower-division <del>Subject Area 6</del>Area-F (Ethnic Studies) requirement so long as adequate numbers of lower-division course options are available to students. As described in Article 2 in the CSU General Education <del>Breadth</del> Requirements, Ethnic Studies courses required in majors, minors or that satisfy campus-wide requirements and are approved for <del>Subject Area 6</del>GE-Area-F (Ethnic Studies) credit shall also fulfill (double count for) this requirement.</p>
10.2	<p>Revised:            Students seeking IGETC certification may use Cal-GETC-approved courses in the same area(s)—whether newly created or newly approved as of Fall 2025 <del>or later</del>.</p>
Certification Form	<p>Removed:  <del>CERTIFICATION TYPE: Full Partial</del></p>
13	<p>Deleted:            Because of (i) the desired unity of Cal-GETC implementation across the segments, (ii) the intersegmental nature of the Cal-GETC Standards themselves, and (iii) the need for intersegmental alignment on implementation updates to Cal-GETC from the current approved version (<del>currently version 1.1</del>), further updates to these standards will be considered to be adopted when the potentially updated standards have been authorized by ICAS and transmitted to the three segment offices (UC Office of the President, CSU Office of the Chancellor, and CCC Office of the Chancellor).</p>

Submitted by Cal-GETC Standards Subcommittee, May 31, 2026