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## 3.X GENERAL EDUCATION POLICY

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**Category:** Academic

**Name of Responsible Office:** Academic Services

**Title of Responsible Executive:** Provost and Vice President for  
Academic Affairs

**Date Established:** Click to enter a date.

**Date Last Approved:** Click to enter a date.  
[To be completed by Administration]

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### Summary

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A strong program of general education provides opportunities for students to gain broad skills and insights that will be useful for their future education and careers, as well as to their development as educated and engaged citizens, regardless of their choice of major or career objectives. Monroe Community College recognizes that general education courses are an integral part of a student's total degree program and a vital complement to their major field of study.

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### Policy

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#### POLICY STATEMENT

Monroe Community College is committed to offering a general education program that complies with applicable state, federal, SUNY, and accreditation standards, laws, and regulations. The MCC general education program mirrors the Middle States Standard III and is designed to ensure that all students, regardless of their chosen degree program, acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies that will draw students into new areas of intellectual experience by offering a curriculum designed so that student can acquire and demonstrate essential skills. help them succeed in whatever educational or career path they choose.

#### BACKGROUND

Monroe Community College recognizes the central role that faculty play in establishing and maintaining a relevant program of general education. In 2009, the MCC General Education Definitions Project team proposed a definition of general education as, "those courses and learning outcomes which serve students to understand themselves, their society, and provides the necessary skills for careers." In 2011, the Provost and the President of the Faculty Senate jointly charged the Senate to "re-imagine, re-invent, and re-engineer" MCC's General Education Program to better reflect and respond to community needs and demands for student learning. The resulting committee worked diligently for two years and submitted the completed "Re-Imagine, Re-Invent, and Re-Engineer General Education" report to the Interim Provost in fall 2014. In 2016, the Faculty Senate approved the recommendations of a MCC General Education Implementation Team charged by the Provost that defined the current specific MCC local general education outcomes and institutional learning outcomes, and recommended a timeline for full implementation by 2017.

The State University of New York (SUNY) requires that programs leading to an A.A. or A.S. degree allow students to complete seven (7) out of ten (10) SUNY General Education Requirements (SUNY-GER), which must include Mathematics and Basic Communication, and a minimum of 30 credits of SUNY-GER courses. The ten SUNY-GER areas are Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science, American History, Western Civilization, Other World Civilizations, Humanities, Arts, Foreign Languages, and Basic Communication.

In order to meet the local MCC General Education Requirements (MCC-GER), students earning an associate degree must successfully meet twelve (12) general education learning outcomes in six (6) knowledge areas and six (6) skills and competencies, as defined in MCC General Education Procedure X.X. These outcomes are embedded in requirements of each degree program. Students will satisfy the MCC-GER through successful program completion.

**Transfer of the SUNY-GER**– [SUNY Trustees Resolution 2009-138](#) assures that students transferring with or without a SUNY A.A. or A.S. degree will receive full credit for general education courses successfully completed (i.e., for which credit was awarded at the prior institution) and will not be required to repeat successfully completed courses with similar curricular content. This means that transfer students who meet the 30-credit SUNY-GER at sending campuses shall be deemed to have met the 30-credit SUNY-GER at a receiving campus. Similarly, transfer students who meet a SUNY-GER area at sending campuses shall be deemed to have met that SUNY-GER area at a receiving campus. As feasible, to promote student mobility and timely degree attainment, a receiving campus shall waive local and programmatic requirements for transfer students who have completed the 30-credit SUNY-GER or who have met a SUNY-GER area that is comparable to a local or programmatic requirement.

**Grades in SUNY-GER courses**- In accordance with the [SUNY Memorandum to Presidents on Policy and Guidance: State University General Education Requirement, May 28, 2010](#), a SUNY-GER area successfully completed at a sending campus shall be accepted as meeting the same SUNY-GER area at a receiving campus. With regard to the transfer of a SUNY-GER course to meet local and/or programmatic requirements, a grade of C or higher shall be guaranteed acceptance. A grade higher than C may only be required of transfer students if it is also required of native students.

## **APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all MCC students in degree programs and faculty and staff developing or revising program requirements.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**General Education** - An undergraduate curriculum of broad, high-quality courses that provides students with a set of non-specialized, coherent and focused educational experiences aimed at enabling students to acquire knowledge and skills that are useful and important for all educated persons regardless of their jobs or professions. ([Source: SUNY Trustees Resolution 2010-006](#))

**Institutional Learning Outcomes** - Institutional learning outcomes (ILOs) represent the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes that a student has attained at the end (or as a result) of their engagement during their time at the institution. These skills are developed through intentional, guided, and iterative experiences across disciplines and programs and throughout students' time in college.

**General Education Learning Outcomes** - A statement that describes what a student should know or be able to do at the end of a general education course. General education learning outcomes for a particular course are included in the course syllabus.

**Local General Education Requirements** - General education requirements established by individual SUNY campuses to either add specificity to the SUNY-GER (e.g., require specific SUNY-GER areas) or exceed the 30-credit SUNY-GER.

**Programmatic General Education Requirements** - Specific general education requirements associated with individual academic programs, such as requirements in programs leading to teacher certification that are externally mandated. These may be met within the 30-credit SUNY-GER, but they may also exceed the SUNY-GER (e.g., additional courses, minimum course grades).

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

Provost and Vice President, Academic Services

## **PROCEDURE**

MCC General Education Procedure (X.X)

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## **Contact Information**

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Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Associate Vice President, Curriculum and Program Development

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## **Related Information**

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### **College Documents:**

~~Do we list procedure here also?~~

### **Other Related Documents:**

[Middle States Standards for Accreditation and Requirements for Affiliation](#)

[SUNY General Education Requirement Policy](#)

[SUNY Memorandum to Presidents on Policy and Guidance: State University General Education Requirement, May 28, 2010](#)

[SUNY Trustees Resolution 2009-138, Reaffirmation and Strengthening of the State University Board of Trustees Policy on Student Mobility \(Transfer and Articulation\), of November 17, 2009](#)

[SUNY Trustees Resolution 2010-006, Amendments to General Education Requirement, of January 19, 2010](#)

[SUNY Trustees Resolution 2010-039, Streamlining the State University Board of Trustees Policy on Assessment, of March 23, 2010](#)