2015 General Education Program

How USC prepares our graduates to be thoughtful, generally well educated people.

Effective Fall 2015, all undergraduates at USC must satisfy our new General Education Program, which provides training in the critical skills necessary for a free person to function effectively in a complex world. The program has been designed to nurture habits of thought essential for professional success and personal development, to establish a background for lifelong learning.

In major and minor coursework, students focus on an area of intellectual inquiry in depth. General Education complements that depth by preparing students to be informed citizens of the twenty-first century, who understand its challenges and participate in its debates. In General Education courses, students learn to think critically about the texts they read and the analyses they encounter, to evaluate competing ideas and consider what is being assumed and what alternatives might exist.

As the world becomes more interconnected, there is an increased need for critical thought, as well as self-reflection, moral discernment, appreciation of diversity, aesthetic sensibility, civility, reconciliation and empathy across all spheres of life. The USC General Education Program has been designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the challenges of a globalized world and the demands of a satisfying personal life.

The requirements of the new GE program are summarized on the opposite side of this page. These apply to all undergraduates who begin at USC in Fall 2015 or later, and to all undergraduates who begin at other colleges in Fall 2015 or later and subsequently transfer to USC. To learn more about the new program, visit http://dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge.
USC 2015 General Education Program Requirements

Effective Fall 2015, all undergraduates at USC must satisfy the following degree requirements. With a careful choice of classes, students can meet the following ten requirements with eight individual courses.

Core Literacies (8 courses)
There are six Core Literacy categories, in which eight courses are required. All students must complete one course in each of the Arts, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Quantitative Reasoning, and two courses in each of Humanistic Inquiry and Social Analysis.

- GE-A The Arts (1 course)
- GE-B Humanistic Inquiry (2 courses)
- GE-C Social Analysis (2 courses)
- GE-D Life Sciences (1 course)
- GE-E Physical Sciences (1 course)
- GE-F Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)

Global Perspectives (2 courses)
Global Perspectives includes two requirements. Students must complete one course from each of these two lists.

- GE-G Citizenship in a Global Era (1 course)
- GE-H Traditions and Historical Foundations (1 course)

Courses in the Global Perspectives categories can satisfy requirements in the Core Literacies as well. A single course can satisfy one Global Perspective and one Core Literacy requirement at most.

Freshman Requirement
All freshmen entering USC in Fall 2015 or later must enroll in a General Education Seminar (GESM) in their first year of enrollment. This course will satisfy one of the six Core Literacy requirements above. Each General Education Seminar is limited to 19 seats and is open only to freshmen.

Transfer Requirements
Students may use approved courses completed at other colleges before their first enrollment at USC to satisfy USC GE requirements. However, they must complete at least two General Education courses at USC from among the six Core Literacy categories. Once enrolled at USC, students must complete all GE requirements at the university.

Transfer students are not required to complete a General Education Seminar (GESM).

All General Education courses at USC carry four units of credit. To be eligible for transfer, a course taken at another institution must articulate for a minimum of 2 and 2/3 units of USC credit, with an earned grade of C minus or higher.

Additional information about the 2015 General Education Program at USC is available online at [http://dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge](http://dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge).