General Education Description/Philosophy

The General Education Program at Ohlone College reflects the values of the college, its students, and community and is intended to prepare students to live and work in a dynamic, multicultural, and global society. The college is committed to providing students with learning experiences both grounded in theory and application which are meant to develop the abilities to think critically; to communicate clearly and ethically in both oral and in written form; and to use mathematics, science, and technology practically while acquiring quality physical health. Furthermore, the college guides students in understanding the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines and provides activities and experiences in the appreciation of performing arts, the sustainability of the physical environment, and value of multicultural and diverse perspectives. Insights gained from experiences of others and themselves will guide self-understanding and promote the lifelong learning process.

Ohlone College General Education Pattern (Plan A)

Area Definitions and Student Learning Outcomes

The Ohlone College (Plan A) General Education pattern requires a minimum of 18 units in completing an Ohlone-specific general education pattern, including intercultural/international studies, wellness, and information competency components. Ohlone College (Plan A) requirements may also be met through the reciprocity agreement explained on page 44. The Ohlone College (Plan A) General Education pattern is recommended for students whose immediate goal is to complete an associate degree with either a general or occupational major. Students who desire to complete an Associate in Arts for Transfer or an Associate in Science for Transfer (ADT) cannot use Ohlone College General Education (Plan A). In some majors students may be required to complete more than 60 semester units to obtain an associate degree. Students are advised to consult with a counselor.

The following information presents the General Education Philosophy and Student Learning Outcomes for the Ohlone College General Education (Plan A) pattern. The major areas include:

I. Natural Sciences
II. Social and Behavioral Sciences
III. Fine Arts and Humanities
IV. Language and Rationality
V. Physical Education/Wellness
VI. Intercultural/International Studies
VII. Information Competency

Area I Natural Sciences

Courses in the natural sciences are those which examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the General Education requirement in natural sciences, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method, and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities. This category includes introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

Upon receipt of an associate degree from Ohlone College, students will be able to

1. Analyze and apply concepts of biological and/or physical science obtained through the scientific method.
Area II Social and Behavioral Sciences
Social and behavioral sciences courses increase the understanding of individual and group-influenced behavior in a variety of contexts: geographic location, economic structures, historical background, political institutions, social groups, societies, and the individual person.

Courses will challenge students to think critically about these contexts and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate within them. Courses will also develop the students’ abilities to recognize and apply appropriate methods of inquiry to the particular social science areas that is being studied.

Upon receipt of an associate degree from Ohlone College, students will be able to
1. Identify and apply the major theories and methods of inquiry of the relevant social or behavioral science to a variety of contexts in order to investigate, analyze, or predict individual or group behavior.
2. Describe how individuals and/or groups are influenced by their social, cultural, and/or historical contexts.
3. Apply disciplinary knowledge from the social or behavioral sciences to contemporary ethical or social dilemmas.

Area III Fine Arts Theory and Humanities and Participatory Arts
Courses in the fine arts and humanities area cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility, and sensitivity. Courses fulfilling this requirement study great works of the human imagination; increase awareness and appreciation of the traditional humanistic disciplines such as fine and performing arts, literature, music, philosophy, history, and communications; impart an understanding of the interrelationship between creative art, the humanities, and the self; provide exposure to both Western and non-Western cultures; and may include a foreign language course that contains a cultural component as opposed to a course that focuses solely on skills acquisition. Fine Arts Theory courses include courses that are historical. In addition to the traditional lecture classes in humanities, the humanities and participatory arts area includes arts courses that are experiential or participatory.

Upon receipt of an associate degree from Ohlone College, students will be able to
A. Fine Arts Theory
   1. Analyze and value modes and/or theories of artistic expression.
B. Humanities and Participatory Arts
   1. Identify the influence of and/or participate in the cultural, artistic, social, economic, or political forces on human experience, thought, or expression.

Area IV Language and Rationality
Courses in language and rationality provide students with the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and communication skills, as well as their computational skills. Courses in these areas focus on writing, argument, analysis, problem solving, and verbal communication.

Upon receipt of an associate degree from Ohlone College, students will be able to
A. English Composition
   1. Write a well-organized paper in Standard English which presents a main idea supported by effective documentation and details.
   2. Demonstrate the ability to write effectively for a variety of purposes, using correct grammar and appropriate style.
B. Analytical Thinking and Oral Communication
   1. Think logically and critically to solve problems, draw conclusions, and evaluate evidence.
2. Communicate an idea clearly, either verbally or in written form.

C. Math Proficiency
   1. Demonstrate the ability to think analytically by applying the concepts and techniques of algebra to the solution of real world math applications.

Area V Physical Education/Wellness
Physical education courses are activity-based. Wellness courses are not necessarily activity-based and have a focus on such topics as nutrition, stress management, weight management, fitness, and personal wellness.

Upon receipt of an associate degree from Ohlone College, students will be able to
   A. Physical Education
      1. Value the importance of and develop a regular regimen of physical activity and/or exercise.
      2. Demonstrate fundamental skills incorporating the techniques, rules, and strategies of the activity.
   B. Wellness
      1. Formulate a personal wellness plan incorporating the basic principles of a healthful lifestyle.

Area VI Intercultural/International Studies
The Intercultural/International Studies requirement is intended to instill in students an appreciation of peoples and cultures other than their own. Students who fulfill this requirement should be able to empathize with and respect those from different cultural backgrounds and realize the interconnectedness of all peoples. The requirement is meant to help ensure that Ohlone College graduates acquire the perspective necessary for an enlightened, diverse global citizenry. Students taking a course in these areas will be able to recognize and negotiate the complex ethics and politics of construing meaning and building social relationships across differences; e.g.: ethnocentrism, nationalism, cultural imperialism, cultural appropriation, and homogenization of nations and cultures.

Courses which satisfy the Intercultural/International Studies requirement shall be courses wholly focused on the following cultural topics: race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, and/or socioeconomic background. Courses that satisfy the Intercultural/International Studies requirement may focus on any of the aforementioned topics within a U.S. context, or within an international or global context such as technology, economic development, cross national communication, cultural relations, and world art and literature.

Upon receipt of an associate degree from Ohlone College, students will be able to
   1. Analyze the ways historical, cultural, and/or social conditions impact a particular intercultural/international group or culture.
   2. Develop sensitivity and skills for living and working in a culturally diverse world.

Area VII Information Competency
Information Competency is the ability to identify an information need, find the needed information efficiently, and use information effectively and ethically. Information Competency combines aspects of library literacy, research methods, critical thinking, and technological literacy.

Upon receipt of an associate degree from Ohlone College, students will be able to
   1. Develop effective research strategies.
   2. Locate, retrieve, evaluate, and use information ethically and legally.