Area I Natural Sciences

Definition
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.

Student Learning Outcome
1. Analyze and apply concepts of biological and/or physical science obtained through the scientific method.

Area II Social and Behavioral Sciences

Definition
Social and behavioral science 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 students’ abilities to recognize and apply appropriate methods of inquiry to the particular social science areas that they are studying.

Student Learning Outcomes
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/Humanities

Definition
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; may include a foreign language course that contains a cultural component as opposed to a course that focuses solely on skills acquisition.

A. Fine Arts.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Analyze and value modes of artistic expression.
B. Humanities.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Identify the influence of cultural, artistic, social, economic, or political forces on human experience, thought, or expression.

Area IV Language and Rationality

Definition
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.

A. English Composition

Student Learning Outcomes
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

Student Learning Outcomes
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

Student Learning Outcomes
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

Definition
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.

A. Physical Education

Student Learning Outcomes
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

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Formulate a personal wellness plan incorporating the basic principles of a healthful lifestyle.
Area VI Intercultural/International Studies

**Definition**
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 Ohlone College Intercultural/International Studies requirement shall be courses wholly focused on the following topics: culture, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic background, and/or language. 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.

**Student Learning Outcomes**
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

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

**Student Learning Outcomes**
1. Develop effective research strategies.
2. Locate, retrieve, evaluate, and use information ethically and legally.