

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Introduction

The Virginia State University (VSU) General Education Program is founded on the principles of academic excellence and personal growth and comprises the core curriculum for all baccalaureate degrees offered by the institution. Driven by the University's Mission and Principles, the program endeavors to develop engaged, enlightened, productive citizens in a changing world.

The liberal arts emphasis of VSU's General Education Program is designed to foster dispositions that value lifelong learning, personal responsibility, integrity, creative expression, and the ethic of service.

Learning Outcomes

1. Based upon the *University Mission and Principles*, the following learning outcomes comprise the foundation for the General Education Program courses:
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of, and appreciation for, the needs and aspirations of self and others in the contexts of citizenship and socio-psychological integrity.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of global cultural literacy within a trans-cultural context and, preferably, a second language.
4. Students will demonstrate a commitment to high academic standards and scholarly dispositions:
 - Demonstrate information literacy skills, utilizing current, effective strategies (including technology) for discovering knowledge in their respective disciplines;
 - Demonstrate an understanding of the need for continuing intellectual and personal growth;
 - Be cognizant of the importance of professional versatility;
 - Demonstrate analytical skills and the ability to engage in collaborative and individual decision making;
 - Demonstrate critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and analytical skills necessary to present and explain cogent, compelling, intellectually based theses/arguments.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of the inter-relatedness of content across the general education curriculum and their chosen major.
5. Students will demonstrate reading, writing, listening, and speaking proficiency in English.
6. Students will gain an understanding of holistic wellness and its maintenance.
7. Students will demonstrate proficiency in applying mathematical concepts.
8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of theoretical perspectives and concepts in social science.
9. Students will demonstrate scientific literacy.
10. Students will demonstrate technological literacy.

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVISIONS, REQUIREMENTS AND COURSES

The General Education course framework represents a balanced menu of courses designed to enhance core skill sets, including synthesis and analysis of information; problem solving through structures, organizations and systems; understanding of global/cultural and historical contexts; research; and effective communication skills.

Provisions and Requirements

1. The minimum requirement for successful completion of the General Education program (History, Humanities, Global Studies, English, Literature, Wellness/Health, Mathematics, Social Science and Science, respectively) is 33 to 37 semester hours.
2. Departments (majors) may require additional credit hours not to satisfy certain specialized accreditation agency requirements.
3. Students may use one course simultaneously to satisfy a requirement for general education and their major discipline; however students may not use one course to satisfy more than one general education course requirement.
4. The minimum grade required for successful completion of English 110 and 111 (Composition I and II) is "C."
5. Departments (majors) may choose courses from the limited menus or allow students to choose.

| History 3.00 semester hours required from the below menu | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------------------------|
| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 3.00 | HIST | 114 | World History I |
| 3.00 | HIST | 115 | World History II |
| 3.00 | HIST | 122 | U.S. History I |
| 3.00 | HIST | 123 | U.S. History II |
| 3.00 | POLI | 150 | Unites States Government |

| Humanities 3.00 semester hours required from the below menu | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---|
| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 199 | Art Appreciation |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 200 | Arts and Crafts (non-majors only) |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 301 | World Art Survey I |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 302 | World Art Survey II |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 307 | Modern Art: 1860-1960 |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 403 | Survey of African American Art |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 405 | Survey of African Art |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 407 | History of Photography |
| 3.00 | DANC | 378 | History of Dance and the Black Experience |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 311 | African-American Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 312 | Women's Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 313 | Classics of Western Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 323 | Environmental Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 325 | The Bible As Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 331 | History of Drama |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 341 | Expository Writing |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 342 | Technical Communication |

| Humanities 3.00 semester hours required from the below menu (continued) | | | |
|--|------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 3.00 | ENGL/ PHIL | 327 | Philosophy in Literature |
| 3.00 | FREN | 110 | Elementary French I |
| 3.00 | FREN | 111 | Elementary French II |
| 3.00 | FREN | 212 | Intermediate French I |
| 3.00 | FREN | 213 | Intermediate French II |
| 3.00 | GEEN | 310 | Advanced Communication Skills |
| 3.00 | HIST | 122 | US History I |
| 3.00 | HIST | 123 | US History II |
| 3.00 | GEMU | 480 | Blacks in American Music |
| 3.00 | PHIL | 140 | Introduction to Philosophy |
| 3.00 | GERM | 110 | Elementary German I |
| 3.00 | GERM | 111 | Elementary German II |
| 3.00 | GERM | 212 | Intermediate German I |
| 3.00 | GERM | 213 | Intermediate German II |
| 3.00 | MUSI | 199 | Music Appreciation |
| 3.00 | MUSI | 285 | Music History I |
| 3.00 | PHIL | 180 | Critical Thinking |
| 3.00 | PHIL | 220 | Logic |
| 3.00 | PHIL | 275 | Ethics |
| 3.00 | PHIL | 290 | Business Ethics |
| 3.00 | PHIL | 450 | Applied Ethics |
| 3.00 | SPAN | 110 | Elementary Spanish I |
| 3.00 | SPAN | 111 | Elementary Spanish II |
| 3.00 | SPAN | 212 | Intermediate Spanish I |
| 3.00 | SPAN | 213 | Intermediate Spanish II |
| 3.00 | SPEE | 214 | Introduction to Public Speaking |

| Global Studies 3.00 semester hours required from the below menu | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|--|
| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 3.00 | AGRI | 295 | Contemporary Global Studies |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 301 | World Art Survey I |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 302 | World Art Survey II |
| 3.00 | ARTS | 405 | Survey of African Art |
| 3.00 | ECON | 451 | International Economics |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 314 | Readings in Multicultural Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 315 | African Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 322 | Post-Colonial Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 411 | Readings in African Literature and Culture |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 412 | Caribbean Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL/PHIL | 326 | Mythology |
| 3.00 | FREN | 110 | Elementary French I |
| 3.00 | FREN | 111 | Elementary French II |
| 3.00 | FREN | 212 | Intermediate French I |
| 3.00 | FREN | 213 | Intermediate French II |
| 3.00 | HIST | 114 | World History I |
| 3.00 | HIST | 115 | World History II |
| 3.00 | GEOG | 210 | World Geography |
| 3.00 | GERM | 110 | Elementary German I |
| 3.00 | GERM | 111 | Elementary German II |
| 3.00 | GERM | 212 | Intermediate German I |
| 3.00 | GERM | 213 | Intermediate German II |
| 3.00 | IDUP | 270 | Introduction to Africana Studies |
| 3.00 | MUSI | 286 | Music History II |
| 3.00 | POLI | 207 | International Relations |
| 3.00 | POLI | 210 | Comparative Government |
| 3.00 | SPAN | 110 | Elementary Spanish I |
| 3.00 | SPAN | 111 | Elementary Spanish II |
| 3.00 | SPAN | 212 | Intermediate Spanish I |
| 3.00 | SPAN | 213 | Intermediate Spanish II |

| English 6.00 semester hours required from the below menu (Minimum grade of 'C') | | | |
|--|--------|--------|----------------|
| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 110 | Composition I |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 111 | Composition II |

| Literature 3.00 semester hours required from the below menu | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---|
| <i>ENGL 201 and ENGL 202 are designed for most students. ENGL 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, and 215 are intended for students with a strong background in literature.</i> | | | |
| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 201 | Introduction to Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 202 | Introduction to African American Literature |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 210 | English Literature I |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 211 | English Literature II |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 212 | American Literature I |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 213 | American Literature II |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 214 | World Literature I |
| 3.00 | ENGL | 215 | World Literature II |

| Wellness/Health 2:00 semester hours required from below menu | | | |
|---|--------|--------|---------------------------|
| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 1.00 | HPER | 160 | Team Sports I |
| 1.00 | HPER | 161 | Team Sports II |
| 1.00 | HPER | 165 | Personal Fitness |
| 1.00 | HPER | 166 | Beginning Swimming |
| 1.00 | HPER | 168 | Aerobics and Conditioning |
| 1.00 | HPER | 169 | Gymnastics |
| 2.00 | HPER | 170 | Health and Wellness |
| 1.00 | HPER | 171 | Lifetime Sports I |
| 1.00 | HPER | 172 | Lifetime Sports II |
| 1.00 | HPER | 175 | Dance As Art |

| Mathematics 6.00 semester hours required from the below menu | | | |
|---|--------|--------|---|
| <i>It is recommended that a student successfully complete the appropriate two-course sequence [six semester hours or eight semester hours depending on major] of mathematics to satisfy the approved curriculum in the student's major and concentration.</i> | | | |
| S.H | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 3.00 | MATH | 112 | Basic Mathematics I |
| 3.00 | MATH | 113 | Basic Mathematics II |
| 4.00 | MATH | 120 | College Algebra |
| 4.00 | MATH | 121 | College Algebra & Trigonometry |
| 3.00 | MATH | 122 | Finite Mathematics |
| 3.00 | MATH | 130 | Numbers and Operations |
| 3.00 | MATH | 131 | Algebra and Functions |
| 4.00 | MATH | 150 | Pre-calculus |
| 4.00 | MATH | 260 | Calculus I |
| 4.00 | MATH | 261 | Calculus II |
| 3.00 | PHIL | 220 | Introduction to Logic (Contingent upon mathematics placement test score.) |
| 3.00 | STAT | 210 | Statistics |

| Social Science 3.00 semester hours required from the below menu | | | |
|--|--------|--------|----------------------------------|
| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
| 3.00 | CJUS | 116 | Introduction to Criminal Justice |
| 3.00 | ECON | 100 | Basic Economics |
| 3.00 | ECON | 210 | Principles of Microeconomics |
| 3.00 | ECON | 211 | Principles of Macroeconomics |
| 3.00 | FACS | 201 | Consumer Economics |
| 3.00 | POLI | 150 | United States Government |
| 3.00 | PSYC | 101 | Introduction to Psychology |
| 3.00 | POLI | 202 | Contemporary Political Thought |
| 3.00 | PSYC | 212 | Human Growth and Development |
| 3.00 | SOCI | 101 | Introduction to Sociology |
| 3.00 | SOCI | 102 | Introduction to Anthropology |

Science 4.00 semester hours required from the below menu

To meet the General Education requirement in Science a student must successfully complete one course with associated *labs [four semester hours]* or *the appropriate science courses to satisfy the approved curriculum in the student's major. This requirement can be satisfied by completing minimally one two-semester hour course or two one-semester courses.*

| S.H. | Course | Number | Course Title |
|------|--------|---------------|---|
| 4.00 | AGRI | 150 | Introduction of Environmental Science + Lab |
| 4.00 | BIOL | 116 | Biological Science + Lab |
| 4.00 | BIOL | 120 | Principles of Biology I + Lab |
| 4.00 | BIOL | 121 | Principles of Biology II+ Lab (Bio Majors Only) |
| 4.00 | BIOL | 318 | Human Anatomy + Lab |
| 4.00 | CHEM | 100 | Chemistry and Society + Lab |
| 4.00 | CHEM | 151/153 (Lab) | General Chemistry I + Lab |
| 4.00 | CHEM | 152/154 (Lab) | General Chemistry II + Lab |
| 4.00 | CHEM | 161/163 (Lab) | Chemistry I + Lab (Chem. Majors Only) |
| 4.00 | CHEM | 162/164(Lab) | Chemistry II + Lab (Chem. Majors Only) |
| 4.00 | DIET | 101 | Nutrition-Contemporary Health Issues + Lab |
| 4.00 | GEES | 181 | Earth Science + Lab |
| 4.00 | PHYS | 100 | Physical Science + Lab |
| 4.00 | PHYS | 105 | Introduction to Physics I |
| 4.00 | PHYS | 106 | Introduction to Physics II |
| 4.00 | PHYS | 112 | General Physics I + Lab |
| 4.00 | PHYS | 113 | General Physics II + Lab |

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Individualized Studies Degree

The Bachelor of Individualized Studies (BIS) degree at Virginia State University was designed specifically for adult students. The BIS degree provides working adults the opportunity to complete a college degree through a combination of traditional and non-traditional methods of earning academic credit. The traditional methods include taking courses at VSU and transferring credit from other accredited community colleges, colleges, and universities. The non-traditional methods include credit by examination, credit for educational experiences in the Armed Forces as evaluated by the American Council on Education, and credit for work/life learning as documented by a personal portfolio. Candidates must earn a minimum of 120 semester hours or the equivalent.

In completing the degree, the following minimum requirements must be met:

GENERAL EDUCATION: A minimum of 33 semester hours (s.h.) must be in General Education, consisting of a cadre of courses in: History, Humanities, Global Studies, English, Literature, Wellness/Health, Mathematics, Social Science and Science, respectively.

SPECIALIZATION: A minimum of 36 semester hours in a particular area selected by the student will be designated as the specialization. This specialization indicates the primary focus of the individualized degree program. This 'field of specialization' should not be confused with a major offered by one of the other departments. At least 15 s.h. in the specialization must be coursework taken at VSU at the upper level (junior/senior level courses).

ELECTIVES: The remaining 54 semester hours required to complete the degree are elective credits. These electives complement the area of specialization or reflect a secondary interest.

Additional requirements in completing the above 120 semester hours include:

RESIDENCY: At least 31 s.h. must be earned from Virginia State University.

COURSE LEVEL: At least 40 s.h. must be earned at the upper division (Junior/Senior level).

COURSE TYPE: At least 60 s.h. must be earned from traditional classroom study transfer and/or resident courses). At least 30 of these 60 s.h. must have been earned within six years of graduation. A maximum of 30 s.h. may be awarded for work/life experience (portfolio petition). A maximum of 30 s.h. is allowed for military occupational specialty, and an additional 30 s.h. may be awarded for military education courses.

Methods of earning credit: In addition to taking resident coursework at Virginia State University, official award of credit may also be accomplished through the following processes:

Transfer credit is approved through the Admissions Office as part of the application for admission process. When admitted, a matriculating student's accepted transfer credit will be posted by Admissions directly to the student's VSU academic record.

Credit for educational experiences in the Armed Forces may be awarded after matriculation at Virginia State University and may be awarded in areas, which fall within the regular curricular offerings of the University. The admitted student must enroll in CNED 302, Orientation, and submit documentation of military education/ training (a military transcript). Academic credit is based on the recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE), as found in the Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services. This evaluation is done by an advisor in the BIS degree program.

Credit for work/life experience may be awarded on the basis of portfolio assessment. Matriculating BIS students must enroll in CNED-301, Life/Work Seminar, in which they will assess their experiences and match them with courses in the current University Catalog. A portfolio documenting experiential learning will be developed for each course petitioned. The portfolio should follow the current syllabus for the course, addressing the knowledge, skills, and abilities outlined on the syllabus. Each portfolio will be evaluated by the faculty of the academic department from which credit is being petitioned. Credit awarded through portfolio petition may be used only in the BIS degree. An administrative fee is charged for each portfolio.

Non-traditional credit awarded by Virginia State University will be identified on the student’s transcript as credit awarded for prior experiential learning.

Credit earned may be used to satisfy more than one of the requirements above. Persons are not eligible for admission to the Bachelor of Individualized Studies program until four (4) years after their graduation from high school. Persons enrolled as full-time students in traditional degree programs at Virginia State University may not be admitted to the Individualized Studies program until they have been out of college a minimum of one (1) full year. Any request for an exception to this policy must be submitted in writing to the BIS Advisory Committee. Persons with baccalaureate degrees from accredited institutions are not eligible for admission to this program nor may persons be enrolled simultaneously in the Individualized Studies program and another baccalaureate program.

Persons seeking admission to the Bachelor of Individualized Studies program must be graduates of an accredited secondary school or must possess a GED certificate. They must meet the general requirements of the University for admission and matriculate at the University prior to acceptance to the Individualized Studies program. Non-traditional credit may be awarded only after these requirements are met.

Persons admitted to the Bachelor of Individualized Studies program will be required to take CNED 302 – Orientation This course is designed to reorient students to college, complete the process of defining personal degree objectives, and finalize the requirements of the program to meet those objectives.

Persons graduating with the Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree must meet the standards mandated by the University for all graduates. They will participate in a comprehensive assessment program administered for all students.

Admission to the Bachelor of Individualized Studies program does not provide for automatic admission to other programs at Virginia State University.

Summary of Degree Requirements

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total semester hours required | 120 semester hrs. |
| CNED 302 - Orientation | 1 credit hr. |
| General Education Distribution | 36 credit hrs. |
| English Composition..... | 6 credits |
| Humanities..... | 6 credits |
| Social Sciences..... | 6 credits |
| Mathematics..... | 6 credits |
| Natural Sciences..... | 6 credits |
| General Education Electives..... | 6 credit |
| Specialization | 30 credits (min.) |
| Restrictive Electives | 27 credits |
| CNED 499 - Senior Project | 3 credits |

Unrestrictive Electives

53 credits (max.)

***CNED 301 - Life/Work SEMINAR** is required for students seeking credit for learning from life/work experience.

CNED 302 - ORIENTATION - 1 semester hour

A course designed to reorient students to college, complete the process of defining personal degree objectives and finalize the requirements of the program to meet those objectives.

CNED 499 - SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECT - 3 semester hours

An independent research project, which builds upon the student's area of specialization and serves as a culminating experience.

Off-Campus Program

Virginia State University provides students an opportunity to pursue individual courses at locations away from the main campus. These sites include public school systems, large businesses or industrial establishments, public services and government agencies and defense installations. These sites are located close to the University campus to maximize the use of campus facilities. Courses are sponsored by the various academic departments of the University and coordinated through the Office of Continuing Education.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

A variety of special programs are available for groups within the community with special problems and/or interests, including senior citizens and children.

Virginia State University at Fort Lee, VA

Virginia State University offers a variety of courses at Fort Lee, Virginia. At Fort Lee, classes are offered in two 8-week sessions in each of the fall and spring semesters, and in one 8-week session in the summer, for a total of five sessions per calendar year. Students have the opportunity to attend classes on a full-time or a part-time basis in the evenings. At Fort Lee, six (6) semester hours taken during a single 8-week session constitutes full-time study for purposes of computing veterans' benefits for that period.

Counseling is available during office hours and by appointment. Military and ex-military personnel may qualify for tuition-assistance or veterans' benefits.

The VSU Office at Fort Lee is located in Army Continuing Education Services Building, Building 8035, Fort Lee, VA. The telephone number is (804) 862-6269/FAX 862-6271.

Honors Program

The Honors Program is designed to meet the unique educational needs of Virginia State University's academically talented and highly motivated undergraduate students. The primary goal of the Honors Program is to create and maintain a stimulating, supportive environment in which young scholars may engage in a wide range of challenging intellectual and creative pursuits. The program encourages the participation of all departments, fosters innovation and experimentation in undergraduate education, and supports University-wide cultural enrichment.

Major features of the Honors Program include the following:

- Honors Study
- Honors Lecture Series
- Leadership Forum
- Undergraduate Research
- Cultural Enrichment Activities
- Graduate School Partnerships

The University provides honors sections of regular university courses in the general education program; these courses encourage creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and deeper intellectual inquiry. The honors curricula provide increased opportunities for presidential and provost scholars to cultivate habits of critical thinking, communication, creative expression and independent thought through smaller classes taught by selected faculty. The honors courses reflect instructional strategies which include more use of primary sources, more fully developed theoretical background, and some integration of interdisciplinary perspectives. The honors courses utilize more creative learning methodologies such as greater emphasis on discussion, writing, research and active extracurricular learning experiences.

Participants in the Honors Program have access to the Honors House, a meeting place for honors students. The house is equipped with a multimedia center, a presentation room for exhibits and displays, and project rooms where small groups of students study and carry on discussions together. The house also has an office for visiting scholars and artists invited to meet with honors students in seminars, colloquia, and tutorials.

The Honors Program is open to high school graduates, transfer students, and continuing students. In addition to applying and being admitted to the University, students who aspire to participate in the Honors Program are invited to file a separate application to the Honors Council, Box 9207, Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia 23806. Each applicant must meet criteria established by the Honors Council, including an excellent combination of grade-point-average, SAT/ACT scores, artistic/creative performances and portfolios, record of leadership experiences, and letters of recommendation.

Veterans and Military Affairs

VSU encourages veterans and active duty military to apply for admission as either full-time or part-time students. Information on educational benefits available to veterans may be obtained from the Veterans Affairs Advisor, Academic Support Services, VSU. Veterans and active duty military who have one or more years of military duty will be granted credit for basic military training, based on the recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE) *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services*. This credit will satisfy the University General Educational ‘Wellness and Health: requirement. In addition, all traditional under graduate degree programs at VSU may accept additional ACE recommended credit, as appropriate to their curriculum requirements, up to a total of eighteen (18) semester hours. The eighteen-hour limit does not apply to this BIS degree.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT AT VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Virginia State University (VSU) has established a new Office of Partnerships and Engagement, with a primary mission of managing the University's Concurrent Enrollment Program.

VSU's Concurrent Enrollment Program provides opportunities for qualified high school juniors and seniors to take college courses, while completing their requirements to graduate from high school. The program has many benefits. Studies show that students, who acquire college credits, while in high school, are more likely to graduate and continue their education at a college or university.

The Concurrent Enrollment Program at VSU enhances students' abilities to do college work, while gaining confidence to Succeed in college. The program also brings college faculty and high school teachers together to share ideas, experiences and best practices to benefit students enrolled in Concurrent enrollment courses. Parents and families also benefit, since Concurrent enrollment can provide substantial savings in tuition and fees for college, while shortening the time to a degree for students.

Concurrent enrollment at Virginia State University is an exceptional option for high school students. Students who are interested in participating in Virginia State University's Concurrent Enrollment Program should contact their high school guidance office for specific program requirements. VSU currently offers courses at many high schools throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, with plans to expand course offerings in school districts in other states.

For additional information, contact the Associate Provost in the Office of Academic Affairs, at 804-524-5997, or search the Concurrent Enrollment Program's website at www.vsu.edu.