

Guideline Elements Associated with General Education  
SACSCOC / ETSU / TN code

**SACSCOC standards:**

9.2

**The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides an explanation of equivalencies when using units other than semester credit hours. The institution provides an appropriate justification for all degree programs and combined degree programs that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.**

*(Program length)* [CR]

9.3

**The institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level that:**

- (a) is based on a coherent rationale.**
- (b) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree program. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent.**
- (c) ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. These courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession. *(General education requirements)*** [CR]

## ETSU Policy: General Education

ETSU's general education requirements are as follows:

1. Communication (9 credits, consisting of 6 credits of written composition and 3 credits of oral communication)
2. Humanities and Fine Arts (9 credits, consisting of 3 credits of literature, 3 credits of fine arts, and 3 credits of humanities electives)
3. Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)
4. History (6 credits)
5. Natural Sciences (8 credits)
6. Mathematics (3-4 credits)

Students who have completed an associate degree designed for transfer at a regionally accredited college or university have satisfied ETSU's general education requirements.

Transfer students from Tennessee Board of Regents community colleges without associate degrees who completed blocks of general education requirements at those schools have satisfied the corresponding blocks in ETSU's general education core.

When ETSU requires students to complete a particular general education course with a minimum grade (e.g., C), this requirement also applies to that course in transfer.

Some majors at ETSU require students to complete courses that also satisfy general education requirements. Transfer students who took other courses at previous institutions to meet those general education requirements must still take the courses required for the major at ETSU.

ETSU's general education requirements do not apply to students who have completed a baccalaureate degree at ETSU or another regionally accredited college or university and are pursuing a second bachelor's degree.

ETSU will conduct a course-by-course evaluation and apply transfer courses toward its general education requirements as appropriate for transfer students from TBR community colleges who did not complete general education blocks and for transfer students from other institutions.

**Tennessee Code:**

The only place that Tennessee Code Annotated directs general education is around the Tennessee Transfer Pathways which is in **TCA 49-7-202(r)(2)** – see below. THEC does not have any additional official policy/guidance on the composition of general education.

**(2)**

**(A)** A transfer pathway shall consist of sixty (60) hours of instruction that a student can transfer and apply toward the requirements for a bachelor's degree at a public institution that offers the transfer pathway. The sixty (60) hours of instruction in a transfer pathway shall consist of forty-one (41) hours of general education courses instruction and nineteen (19) hours of pre-major courses instruction, or elective courses instruction that count toward a major, as prescribed by the commission, which shall consider the views of chief academic officers and faculty senates of the respective campuses. Courses in a transfer pathway shall transfer and apply toward the requirements for graduation with a bachelor's degree at all public universities.

**(B)** An associate of science or associate of arts degree graduate from a Tennessee community college shall be deemed to have met all general education and university parallel core requirements for transfer to a Tennessee public university as a junior. Notwithstanding this subdivision (r)(2)(B), admission into a particular program, school, or college within a university, or into the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, shall remain competitive in accordance with generally applicable policies.

**(C)** The forty-one-hour lower division general education core common to all state colleges and universities shall be fully transferable as a block to, and satisfy the general education core of, any public community college or university. A completed subject category, for example, natural sciences or mathematics, within the forty-one-hour general education core shall also be fully transferable and satisfy that subject category of the general education core at any public community college or university.

**(D)** The nineteen-hour lower division AA/AS area of emphasis articulated to a baccalaureate major shall be universally transferable as a block satisfying lower division major requirements to any public university offering that degree program major.

**2010 Tennessee Code**  
**Title 49 - Education**  
**Chapter 7 - Postsecondary and Higher Education Generally**  
**Part 1 - Miscellaneous Provisions**  
**49-7-110 - Curriculum American history.**

**49-7-110. Curriculum American history.**

(a) No person shall be granted a baccalaureate degree of any kind from any institution of higher learning supported or maintained by the state, or from any community college supported or maintained by the state, unless the person has earned credit in American history, consisting of six (6) semester hours or nine (9) quarter hours. Persons who pursue baccalaureate degrees in those areas of study exempted either by regulation of the board of regents or by regulations or delegated authority of the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee are not required to meet the requirements of this section if they have successfully completed a course in American history in high school.

(b) Any student shall have the option, at the student's request, to substitute three (3) semester or three (3) quarter hours of Tennessee history for three (3) of the semester or quarter hours in American history required by the terms of this section if offered by the institution.

(c) (1) Courses in American history taught under the terms of this section shall include the contributions of all people in the history of the United States without regard to race, sex or creed.

(2) Courses in Tennessee history taught under the terms of this section shall include the contributions of all people in the history of Tennessee without regard to race, sex or creed.

[Acts 1974, ch. 767, §§ 1, 2; 1975, ch. 170, § 1; T.C.A., § 49-3253; Acts 2009, ch. 204, § 1.]