

The general education curriculum will be guided by **faculty oversight committees** based on the following guidelines provided by the General Education Task Force. Further recommendations regarding the administration of general education will be forthcoming. More information: http://www1.appstate.edu/orgs/gen_ed/

I. Clusters Requirements

A. Rationale

1. Most coursework in the general education curriculum will be organized into integrated, thematic clusters to encourage students to make interdisciplinary connections between disciplines with different methods and perspectives.
2. The curriculum is broadly organized into four metadisciplinary clusters. Within each cluster, courses are organized into themes. A theme provides an overarching framework for a set of courses which are linked not only through topic, but through the creation of conscious linkages between courses. Illustrations of ways in which courses might be linked include team teaching, learning communities, discussion sections, integration of lecture or performing arts series, etc.

B. Structure

1. Students are required to take one theme from each of the four clusters. A minimum of 6 s.h. of coursework must be completed in the Historical and Social Perspectives, Aesthetic Perspectives, and Local to Global Perspectives clusters and 8 s.h. must be completed in Science Inquiry. Overall, students are required to take a total of 32 s.h. in the clusters.
2. Students will be required to complete the following hours in each cluster:

Historical & Social Perspectives	6-9 s.h.
Aesthetic Perspectives	6-9 s.h.
Science Inquiry	8 s.h.
Local to Global Perspectives	6-9 s.h.
3. Students may count a maximum of 8 s.h. or 2 courses total in the clusters toward their major.
4. Guidelines regarding course content and methodology to be addressed in each cluster will be developed by the General Education Task Force.

5. Courses will be organized into themes within each cluster. Any number of themes can be accommodated in each cluster, limited only by student demand.
6. Each cluster theme must have courses taught by faculty from at least 2 different disciplines or departments. An exception will be granted for sequential courses within a single discipline in the Science Inquiry Cluster.

II. Historical Studies, Literary Studies, and Fine Arts Requirements

A. Rationale

1. These requirements ensure that all students completing the general education program will be exposed to the content and methods of historical studies, literary studies, and the fine arts, which we believe are fundamental to our general education mission to anchor the curriculum in “the ideals and practices of liberal education.”
2. These areas are conceptualized as employing different content, methods, and conceptual approaches. These areas are not conceived as bounded within departments, since faculty with expertise in the disciplines encompassed might be located in various departments.

B. Structure

1. Students will be required to complete the following requirements within the clusters:

historical studies	3 s.h.
literary studies	3 s.h.
fine arts	3 s.h.
2. Guidelines regarding course content, methodology and instructor qualifications for each of these areas will be developed by the General Education Task Force.
3. These requirements can be completed in any of the following clusters: Historical and Social Perspectives, Aesthetic Perspectives, and Local to Global Perspectives

III. Assessment of Outcomes

1. Assessment will be used to determine success in student learning in these areas.
2. Assessment results will be used to review course offerings and to improve the curriculum in these areas.