OVERVIEW

The types of courses and the goals or general learning outcomes to be expected are presented by the Council as guidelines. The more detailed objectives will be written by the various committees of the Council with appropriate consultation. It is assumed that these objectives will be sufficiently detailed to help faculty in designing new courses/programs and to help the committees in evaluating both new courses/programs and existing courses/programs as to their appropriateness for general education. It is also assumed that these objectives will permit considerable flexibility in the ways they may be achieved.

The entire campus community must become involved in creating and contributing to the general education program. It is not the intention that rigid objectives and rigid evaluation procedures curtail any creative endeavors and/or discourage faculty, particularly those from the traditional "non-general education" schools and programs -- for example, the Schools of Education, HPER, Business, and Ethnic Studies -- from participating in the program.

The criteria to be used in evaluating course/program proposals and associated faculty must be carefully designed, published, and reviewed according to procedures to be established by the General Education Council.

FLOW CHART FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Establishment of General Education Committees.

The General Education Committees will establish detailed objectives and general learning outcomes prior to the development and review of courses/programs for general education. The General Education Council will develop criteria, standards and procedures for course evaluations. Consultations and liaison with experts from the Arts and Sciences Core and from the Schools of Education, HPER, Business and Ethnic Studies will take place.

Regular procedures of departments and school councils for course approval will be followed by review and approval by the appropriate general education committee of courses and program submitted for the general education program. All areas of the University are encouraged to submit courses and programs for general education purposes.

Implementation of general education program; continued review and approval of course and program proposals. All general education committee deliberations on approval of new general education courses must be completed no later than one month before department chairs are required to submit class schedules to the administration in a given semester.

At the end of each semester, standardized evaluation procedures for all general education courses and programs will be implemented.

PREFACE

In September 1978, the General Education Council submitted to the Chancellor's Task Force on General Education a copy of the Council's Draft Proposal on general education and evaluations of the Task Force's first proposal which had been sent to the various campuses within the System at the end of the Spring Semester, 1978. In October 1978, the Council submitted to all faculty and administrators, and to all students through their representatives, a Draft proposal for a
PRINCIPLE 1: The first objective of general education is to develop basic competency in communications, critical thinking,
and quantitative reasoning.

A general education should help students achieve a level of proficiency expected of college students in receptive communication skills -- listening and reading -- and expressive communication skills -- speaking and writing. A general education should provide students with the ability to think logically, critically, and analytically about issues which affect individuals and societies and the ability to make and/or contribute to decisions governing the resolution of these issues. A general education should provide students with the ability to understand and process statistical information and be able to work with mathematical principles considered essential to a college education.

PRINCIPLE 2: The second objective of general education is to develop an understanding of the contributions and influences of the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and creative arts toward the development of civilization and toward the identification, investigation, and resolution of individual and societal problems.

A general education should provide students with appropriate substantive knowledge and an understanding of the processes involved in these broad divisions of knowledge (i.e., the styles, functions, methods, epistemological, and symbolic systems) and the interrelationships as well as the interdependencies of these processes.

PRINCIPLE 3: The third objective of general education is to develop an understanding of the role of values in affecting human behavior.

A general education should provide students with an understanding of their own values and those of others who come from different cultural traditions and institutions but also those of at least one other cultural system in the world, past or present. It is important that students understand what happens when differing individual and/or societal values come into conflict and the processes by which such conflict may be resolved.

A general education should also facilitate an awareness and understanding of American ethnic minorities in the integration and application of the learning outcomes as they are articulated in the General Education proposal.

PRINCIPLE 4: The fourth objective of general education is to promote an appreciation of the interrelationships among skills, knowledge, and values rather than serve to introduce future majors to the various disciplines or departments. The general education curriculum must have its own rationale for existence -- the curriculum should better prepare students for life in a complex, demanding, and rapidly changing world. General education should provide students with an understanding that subdivisions of areas of knowledge are simplifications of reality for the convenience of research and more manageable analysis. In order for students to appreciate the multi-dimensional nature of learning, courses offered for general education should introduce students to a particular discipline in a larger context which relates that discipline to other disciplines or be interdisciplinary.

PRINCIPLE 5: The fifth objective of general education is to provide the opportunity to further develop competence in the integration and application of the learning outcomes described in Principles 1 though 4.

In the upper division general education curriculum, students will integrate and apply their skills and knowledge to the identification, investigation, and resolution of individual and societal concerns and to the appreciation of human achievements. General education is not exclusively a lower division activity but one which extends throughout the collegiate experience. All students, native and transfer, should have both core/cornerstone learning experiences at the lower division level and culminating/capstone learning experiences at the upper division level.

COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

As a long-term objective, it is desired that both the Communications and Reasoning portions of Segment I, Basic Subjects, will be competency-based. However, no such requirement is now made until the General Education Council and its Research Committee are able to establish the efficacy of such a goal for such areas as Oral Communications, Critical Thinking and Quantitative Reasoning.

Resources must be made available to conduct appropriate diagnostic procedures where appropriate -- including the design and administration of examinations -- for entering freshmen and transfer students as well as for faculty allocations required to teach special courses which may need to be designed for students to help them achieve the desired level of competency.

Credit by Examination or Evaluation

The procedures for obtaining credit by examination or evaluation are described in the University Bulletin.

Introductory courses, new or adapted courses/programs in Segment II, Arts and Sciences Core, and Segment III,
**Relationships of Knowledge**, will be designed to provide students with the knowledge and understanding of the interrelationships and interdependencies among the broad divisions of knowledge as well as with the ability to apply their knowledge and understanding to situations in life. Those procedures (examinations, portfolios, etc.) which are used to determine credit by examination or evaluation must be carefully designed and scrupulously administered to assure that students possess those abilities and understandings for which the general education program is designed and at a level expected of college students.

**SUMMARY OF SEGMENTS**

Segment I, Basic Subjects, consists of courses which help students further develop competency in communications (writing/reading, speaking/listening), critical thinking, and quantitative reasoning. The term *subjects* rather than *skills* is used in the title of this Segment to suggest that these competencies may be taught within a contextual framework but with the primary goal of helping students achieve a level of proficiency expected of college students -- the "organizing" principle of courses in this Segment must be, in fact, the development of the desired proficiency. These courses should not be "remedial" but, rather, should be designed to help students build on those competencies they should have as entering college students. Although the objectives of course work in Segment I are somewhat different from the objectives of course work in Segments II and III, it is possible that courses in Segment I could be designed to include two or more competency areas; two or more faculty members might collaborate in designing a course/program proposal; and courses might be team-taught, offered in sequence, or offered in parallel. **All areas of the University are encouraged to submit courses for Segment I, Basic Subjects.**

Courses for Segment II may be designed by one faculty member or two or more faculty members housed in the same department or in different departments/colleges, who may choose to collaborate on a course/program proposal which may involve several units of credit and may be team-taught or courses offered in parallel or in sequence. The courses in Segment II must encourage students to discover relationships among various disciplines, and the requirements of Segment II should encourage faculty to design or redesign courses to specific disciplines may well quality, with the approval of the appropriate general education committee, to fulfill the requirements of this segment. Committees of the General Education Council which are charged with evaluating and approving course/program proposals for Segment II should recommend that some upper division courses be included.

Courses in all three Segments may be designed by faculty members from the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Core and from the inter-college programs, as well as from the Colleges of Education, HHS, Business, and Ethnic Studies. All General Education Committees are expected to maintain an open policy toward acceptance of course proposals from departments and colleges not normally in the area designated by the committee title. The courses or blocks of courses may be team-taught, offered in parallel, or offered in sequence. **The department, program, or college HRTP committee will assess and approve the qualifications of faculty who wish to teach an approved general education course with that department's, program's, or college's prefix.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF UNITS WITHIN THE GENERAL EDUCATION COMPONENT**
SEGMENT I

Basic Subjects

Communications[1]

Written & Oral 6 6

Reasoning

Critical Thinking and Quantitative Reasoning 6 6

Total Units in Basic Subjects 12
SEGMENT II(2)

Arts and Sciences Core

Area of the physical and biological sciences

|   | 9 - 12 | 0 - 3 | 9 - 12 |

Area of behavioral and social sciences

|   | 9 - 12 | 9 - 12 |

Area of the humanities and the creative arts

|   | 9 - 12 | 9 - 12 |

Total Units in Arts and Sciences Core

|   | 27 - 30 |

(Minimum - 27 semester units/Maximum - 30 semester units)
SEGMENT III

**Relationships of Knowledge**

Interdisciplinary or Multi-disciplinary: e.g., core of an Interdisciplinary Minor; patterns of courses focusing on themes or topics; etc.

- Minimum - 6 semester units
- Maximum - 9 semester units

TOTAL UNITS IN GENERAL EDUCATION

- 48 units

REQUIRED NUMBER OF UPPER DIVISION UNITS

It is required that a minimum of nine upper division semester units in general education must be taken at San Francisco State University. Therefore, students who take the minimum of six upper division semester units in Segment III must take a minimum of three upper division semester units in Segment II.

DOUBLE COUNTING

It is recommended that a maximum of twelve semester units of general education may be counted for fulfilling other requirements for graduation. Courses that meet statutory requirements may not be counted for G.E.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS/OBJECTIVES

SEGMENT I - BASIC SUBJECTS 12 units

**Communications**

Written and Oral Communication 6 units

Courses in this portion of the Basic Subjects are those which help students further their written and oral communication skills as freshmen and sophomores and attain a level of skill development appropriate to engage in upper division course work. These courses should include a reading component which will serve as both the content and model for the writing and speaking. Students are expected to do significant amounts of writing as well as to learn and practice the basic principles of effective oral communication. It is also expected that courses in this portion will introduce students to the principles of research basic to that discipline offering the course, involving them in rudimentary library searches and analysis of data.

The 6-unit communication requirement may be met in a number of ways as approved by the Basic Subjects Committee.
One way may be by taking one 3-unit course in written communication and another 3-unit course in oral communication; another may be by taking an integrated (one semester) or coordinated (two semester) 6-unit package focusing on this entire range of communication capabilities. The appropriateness of existing courses in written and oral communication to meet the communications requirement will have to be determined by the Basic Subjects Committee.

[1] It is understood that the course and/or competency requirements for oral and/or written communication must be met or evaluated in modified ways for students with certain physical disabilities.


1 It is understood that the course and/or competency requirements for oral and/or written communication must be met or evaluated in modified ways for students with certain physical disabilities.

2 Such expectations are appropriate in all components of general education and, indeed, in the total college curriculum.