

General Education Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the strange codes in the category boxes?

- SLOs is the abbreviation for Student Learning Outcomes, which are learning goals set by the university that each course in any category should meet. The letter and number codes refer to specific learning outcomes, with each letter representing different domains of learning that exist across different general education categories. A = Critical Thinking, B = Perspectives, C = Oral & Written Communication, D = Science & Technology, and E = Personal Responsibility & Community. The codes here are for informational purposes only. Every syllabus for a general education course will include the relevant student learning outcomes. See <https://inside.nku.edu/gened.html>.

2. Can one course be used for multiple categories?

- No double dipping: students cannot use the same course to satisfy two categories (i.e., ANT 100 cannot be used to complete “Individual & Society” and “Global Viewpoints”). The only exception to this is ENG 151H, which fulfills both “Written I” and “Written II.”
- Often courses can be used to fulfill both general education and major or minor requirements. However, several majors and minors do not allow this form of double dipping or have requirements for courses that cannot be used for general education. Please check with an academic advisor.

3. Can two courses from the same discipline be used to satisfy a category requiring multiple classes?

- No. Only one discipline (course prefix) can be taken per category (the top, dark grey box) other than in “Communication.”
- Three courses from three different disciplines must be taken in “Scientific & Quantitative Inquiry” (one from “Mathematics & Statistics,” one “Natural Science with a Lab,” and one additional “Natural Science”).
- Three courses from three different disciplines must be taken in “Self & Society” (one from “Cultural Pluralism” and two from “Individual & Society”).
- Two courses from two different disciplines must be taken from “Culture & Creativity.” Note, for this rule, all foreign language courses count as a single discipline. Two foreign language classes cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

For example, a student might count SOC 100 in “Individual & Society” and SOC 101 in “Global Viewpoints,” but cannot count them as “Individual & Society” and “Cultural Pluralism” (both being part of the “Self & Society” category).

4. How long does a student have to complete the “Mathematics & Statistics” and “Communication” requirements?

- ENG 101 should be completed by the time the student earns 30 credit hours. Other “Mathematics & Statistics” and “Communication” requirements should be completed by the time the student earns 45 credit hours.

5. What if a student has academic deficiencies?

- Students admitted with NKU, CPE, and/or PCC deficiencies (admission requirements) must be enrolled in the appropriate course their first year and are highly encouraged to take any academic deficiencies during the first semester. Please check with an academic advisor.

6. Do the new general education courses on this checklist count if a student took them last year?

- No, new courses approved as general education for Fall 2018 only fulfill Foundation of Knowledge requirements if taken Fall 2018 or later.

7. If a student is part of the Honors College, does this change any general education requirements?

- Honors College students beginning at NKU in Fall 18 or later will complete about half of their general education courses through an alternative honors curriculum and half using this traditional checklist. Please contact the Honors College for specifics.