



Academic Affairs

March 3, 2023

To: Dr. Deborah Preston, President
From: Dr. Robert Schreyer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Subject: OMG 470 – General Education Policy

The Curriculum Committee is pleased to present a revision to OMB470 – General Education Policy of Mercer County Community College Shared Governance System.

Attached please find the revisions to match the State, marked with R2023 in the file name. The second file GenEd Chart displays the comparison of changes to OMB470. These changes were limited to the Academic Program Requirements chart as shown in the attached. The changes are highlighted on the second page.

The changes that were made are in the credit distribution for AA and the removal of the note for the AS, since that is no longer mentioned in the State document. I also added another note to the table for science. This has always been in the footnote from the state. We have included it on our Curriculum documents, but it never made it in the OMB and it should be included.

We are requesting submission to the March Board of Trustees meeting for final approval.

Recommended and approved for presentation to the Board of Trustees:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Schreyer", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Schreyer, Vice President of Academic Affairs

03/03/2023

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah E. Preston", written over a horizontal line.

Deborah Preston, President

03 / 02 / 2023

Date



Curriculum Committee

February 23, 2023

To: Dr. Robert Schreyer, Vice President Academic Affairs

From: Betty Peterson, Curriculum Committee Chair

BP

Subject: Revisions to OMB470 – General Education Policy

The Curriculum Committee is pleased to present a revision to OMB470 – General Education Policy of Mercer County Community College Shared Governance System.

Attached please find the revisions to match the State, marked with R2023 in the file name. The second file GenEd Chart displays the comparison of changes to OMB470. These changes were limited to the Academic Program Requirements chart as shown in the attached. The changes are highlighted on the second page.

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We are requesting submission to the March Board of Trustees meeting for final approval.

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Dr. Robert Schreyer
Vice President, Academic Affairs

GENERAL EDUCATION POLICY

Mercer County Community College is committed to providing each student with an educational experience that is shaped by the best traditions of higher learning as it addresses the demands of the modern world. For all graduates of degree and credit-bearing certificate programs, this experience includes general education.

The extent to which approved general education courses are required in the various degree and certificate programs is specified in the chart entitled **Academic Program Requirements for General Education**. These requirements may be met through general education courses specified in the design of the program, or through elective choices (from the approved list) afforded to the student in consultation with his or her advisor. These are the minimum requirements; as appropriate to the program, more general education courses may be required. Exceptions may be approved by the President when these requirements are inconsistent with external requirements for program accreditation or student transfer.

The faculty and administration share responsibility for assessing the General Education Institutional Learning Goals and Objectives. Based on the assessment outcomes, courses, programs and this policy should be modified in response.

Academic Program Requirements for General Education

General Education Goals Category	A.A. Credits	A.S. Credits		A.A.S. A.F.A. A.S. Nursing Credits	Certificate Credits
Goal 1: Communication - <i>Written and Oral Communication</i>	9 Must be 6 credits of Composition	6 Must be 6 credits of Composition		6 Must be 3 credits of Composition	3 Must be 3 credits of Composition
Goal 2: Mathematics - <i>Quantitative Knowledge and Skills</i> 3 - 8 cr.	6	9	3	3	3
Goal 3: Science - <i>Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning</i> 3* - 8 cr. *At least 3 credits of a Lab Science					
Goal 4: Technology - <i>Technological Competency</i> 0 - 4 cr.					
Goal 5: Social Science - <i>Society and Human Behavior</i>	6	3	3	3	
Goal 6: Humanities - <i>Humanistic Perspective</i>	6	3			
Goal 7: History - <i>Historical Perspective</i>	3				
Goal 8: Diversity courses - <i>Diversity and Cultural Awareness</i>	3				
Unassigned Gen Ed		6		8 <i>Note 1</i>	
Total	33	30		20	6

Note 1 – The 8 credits of unassigned Gen Ed must not exceed the category limits for the AS degree.

General Education – Institutional Learning Goals and Objectives

Institutional Learning Goal 1.

Written and Oral Communication in English: Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

- 1.1. Students will read, write, and/or speak critically in formal American English.
- 1.2. Students will generate messages suitable to the appropriate setting and purpose.
- 1.3. Students will analyze and assess nonverbal, cultural, and gender communication in both small group and public communication settings.

Institutional Learning Goal 2.

Mathematics: Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.

- 2.1. Students will use the precise language of mathematics to develop graphical, numerical, analytical and verbal models describing quantitative relationships that exist in the world.
- 2.2. Students will investigate and interpret these models using the mathematical skills, tools and reasoning appropriate to each type of model.
- 2.3. Students will draw logical conclusions by applying a variety of mathematical problem-solving strategies.

Institutional Learning Goal 3.

Science: Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.

- 3.1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic facts, principles, theories, and methods of modern science.
- 3.2. Students will explain how the scientific method is used to obtain new data and advance knowledge.
- 3.3. Students will evaluate the potential of the natural sciences in human society and everyday life.

Institutional Learning Goal 4.

Technology: Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

- 4.1. Students will demonstrate proficiency with technological devices and applications in academic and professional settings.
- 4.2. Students will analyze the impact of emerging technologies on modern society.

Institutional Learning Goal 5.

Social Science: Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.

- 5.1. Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science discipline.
- 5.2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the ways social scientists gather and analyze data, integrate knowledge, and draw conclusions.
- 5.3. Students will analyze influences on human development and behavior in individual and institutional contexts.

Institutional Learning Goal 6.

Humanities: Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

- 6.1. Students will draw upon the visual, literary and performing arts and/or the study of philosophical and religious systems of thought and practice in order to analyze themes and contexts, articulating their connections, meanings, and values.
- 6.2. Students will use project-based learning to critically analyze a range of historical and contemporary artifacts including performances and visual and literary works.
- 6.3. Students will demonstrate communicative competence in a language other than their own and an appreciation of that language's cultural and historical context.

Institutional Learning Goal 7.

History: Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

- 7.1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the causes of major historical events and analyze the impact of those events on a nation or civilization.
- 7.2. Students will critically interpret primary and secondary historical documents and critically evaluate the influence of perspective, time, and culture on the writers' point of view.
- 7.3. Students will explain major ideas, movements, and technological discoveries, and their impact on the people and society of the United States, the West, and the world.

Institutional Learning Goal 8.

Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.

- 8.1. Students will recognize how geographical, social, economic, and/or historical conditions shape cultural perspectives.
- 8.2. Students will examine the behaviors and beliefs of individuals and social groups within a diverse society.
- 8.3. Students will analyze the impact of globalization on the social, economic, and political structures of various nations and cultures.

Institutional Learning Goal 9.

Ethical Reasoning and Action: Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

- 9.1. Students will identify the strengths, weaknesses, and relevance of different ethical perspectives and their features.
- 9.2. Students will determine a position on an ethical issue or situation using facts and logical arguments [framed within a common set of terms appropriate to the discipline].
- 9.3. Students will evaluate the morality and implication of considered action and their possible outcomes.

Institutional Learning Goal 10.

Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

- 10.1. Students will identify resources needed and develop appropriate search strategies.
- 10.2. Students will recognize factors that affect credibility, quality, and relevance of information.
- 10.3. Students will use information in order to communicate it to the appropriate audience.
- 10.4. Students will use information ethically regarding privacy, security, and ownership with a focus on preventing plagiarism.

Institutional Learning Goal 11.

Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

- 11.1. Students will distinguish among opinions, facts, values, and inferences.
- 11.2. Students will identify and evaluate diverse perspectives and underlying considerations.
- 11.3. Students will make informed judgments by focusing on relevant logical and empirical issues.
- 11.4. Students will assess and solve problems by applying general and discipline-appropriate methods and standards.

Approved: Board of Trustees December 17, 1998

Revised: April 27, 2005
October 16, 2008
July 20, 2009
September 19, 2019

Comparison of changes to OMB470. These changes were limited to the Academic Program Requirements chart as shown below. The changes are highlighted on the second page.

Original Chart from OMB 470:

Academic Program Requirements for General Education

General Education Goals Category	A.A. Credits	A.S. Credits		A.A.S. A.F.A. A.S. Nursing Credits	Certificate Credits
Goal 1: Communication - <i>Written and Oral Communication</i>	9 Must be 6 credits of Composition	6 Must be 6 credits of Composition		6 Must be 3 credits of Composition	3 Must be 3 credits of Composition
Goal 2: Mathematics - <i>Quantitative Knowledge and Skills</i> 3 - 8 cr. Goal 3: Science - <i>Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning</i> 3 - 8 cr. Goal 4: Technology - <i>Technological Competency</i> 0 - 4 cr.	12	9		3	3
Goal 5: Social Science - <i>Society and Human Behavior</i>	6	3	3	3	
Goal 6: Humanities - <i>Humanistic Perspective</i>	9	3			
Goal 7: History - <i>Historical Perspective</i>	6				
Goal 8: Diversity courses - <i>Diversity and Cultural Awareness</i>	3				
Unassigned Gen Ed		6 <i>Note 1</i>		8 <i>Note 2</i>	
Total	45	30		20	6

Note 1 – The 6 credits of unassigned Gen Ed must not exceed the category limits for the AA degree.

Note 2 – The 8 credits of unassigned Gen Ed must not exceed the category limits for the AS degree.

Proposed Chart from OMB 470 to match the new state requirements.
Changes are highlighted below:

Academic Program Requirements for General Education

General Education Goals Category	A.A. Credits	A.S. Credits		A.A.S. A.F.A. A.S. Nursing Credits	Certificate Credits
Goal 1: Communication - <i>Written and Oral Communication</i>	9 Must be 6 credits of Composition	6 Must be 6 credits of Composition		6 Must be 3 credits of Composition	3 Must be 3 credits of Composition
Goal 2: Mathematics - <i>Quantitative Knowledge and Skills</i> 3 - 8 cr. Goal 3: Science - <i>Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning</i> 3* - 8 cr. *At least 3 credits of a Lab Science Goal 4: Technology - <i>Technological Competency</i> 0 - 4 cr.	6	9		3	3
Goal 5: Social Science - <i>Society and Human Behavior</i>	6	3	3	3	
Goal 6: Humanities - <i>Humanistic Perspective</i>	6	3			
Goal 7: History - <i>Historical Perspective</i>	3				
Goal 8: Diversity courses - <i>Diversity and Cultural Awareness</i>	3				
Unassigned Gen Ed		6		8 <i>Note 1</i>	
Total	33	30		20	6

Note 1 – The 8 credits of unassigned Gen Ed must not exceed the category limits for the AS degree.

Rationale:

The state adjusted the General Education requirements to aid our students in transfer dropping the overall number of credits from 45 to 33 for AA degrees.

The comment added to Goal 3: Science is to reflect the notes attached to the state document.

The restriction of Unassigned Gen Ed credits for the AS has been removed in the latest state document. This required the removal of the original Note 1.