

Appalachian State Advising Tips

General Education Program

Overview:

The foundation of an Appalachian State education is our General Education Program. Through its interdisciplinary approach, students learn to adapt to new environments, integrate knowledge from diverse sources, and prepare to continue learning throughout their lives. The General Education Program draws on nationally-identified best educational practices, as well as what employers say they want from today's graduates.

The General Education Program has four goals:

1. Thinking critically and creatively
2. Communicating effectively
3. Making local to global connections
4. Understanding responsibilities of community membership.

A student's catalog year will determine which General Education requirements they must complete. The student's catalog year will be listed in the information block at the top of the DegreeWorks audit.

For students with a catalog year of 2015-16 through 2024-25 (commonly known as Gen Ed 2.0):

Beginning with the First Year Seminar, the General Education Program accounts for 44 semester hours of a student's degree program. The program includes:

- Writing courses at the freshman and sophomore levels
- Wellness literacy requirement to enhance students' knowledge and management of their personal health in all its dimensions
- A quantitative literacy component to develop reasoning and numerical skills
- Science inquiry theme to introduce students to concepts related to the scientific processes of studying natural phenomena

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- Integrative Learning Experience to provide students the opportunity to study a focused, thematic topic from multiple disciplinary perspectives
- A Liberal Studies Experience to give students the opportunity to explore several disciplines from across the campus.

As part of the Integrative Learning Experience and Liberal Studies Experience, students are required to complete 3 semester hours each in courses designated as Fine Arts, Historical Studies, Literary Studies, and Social Science. The General Education Program also incorporates a Writing in the Discipline course and a Senior Capstone Experience in a student's major.

For students with a catalog year of 2025-26 or later (commonly known as Gen Ed 3.0):

Beginning with the First Year Seminar, the General Education Program accounts for 41 semester hours of a student's degree program. The program includes:

- Writing courses at the freshman and sophomore levels
- Wellness literacy requirement to enhance students' knowledge and management of their personal health in all its dimensions
- A quantitative literacy component to develop reasoning and numerical skills
- Science Inquiry theme to introduce students to concepts related to the scientific processes of studying natural phenomena
- Required coursework in the categories of Sustainability and Climate Literacy, Intercultural Literacy, and Humanity and Its Systems.

As part of the categories of Sustainability and Climate Literacy, Intercultural Literacy, and Humanity and Its Systems, students are required to complete 3 semester hours each in courses designated as Fine Arts, Historical Studies, Literary Studies, and Social Science. The General Education Program also incorporates a Writing in the Discipline course and a Senior Capstone Experience in a student's major.

Advising for General Education

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All advisors must be equipped to advise students on General Education requirements. This includes faculty and professional advisors who guide students after their major is declared. To assist students (and advisors) in understanding the General Education structure and course selection, the University College Academic Advising Center has developed the following tutorial video. Please be sure to review the [General Education Curriculum Appalachian State University](#) tutorial video and share it with your students during your academic advising conversations in order to develop a plan for General Education completion. ***Should this still be included since I don't think there is a video for Gen Ed 3.0?

Side Notes:

For additional information, contacts, and access to the most recent General Education program of study, please visit the [General Education Program webpages](#). You can also find the Gen Ed program of study for a specific student's catalog year by clicking on the General Education Requirements link at the top of their program of study.