

## SECTION 2, CORE REQUIREMENT 2.7.3

The institution requires in each undergraduate degree program the successful completion of a general education component at the collegiate level: (1) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree; (2) ensures breadth of knowledge; and (3) is based on a coherent rationale. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent. These credit hours are to be drawn from and include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. The courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession. The institution provides a written justification and rationale for course equivalency. (General Education)

### JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Compliant

Partially Compliant

Noncompliant

### RATIONALE FOR JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The University System of Georgia recognizes the importance of the general education component of its degree programs. To insure a foundational educational experience for all students within the system, the USG has established a broad set of requirements for the composition of the general education experience. Each institution within the USG is free to establish their own individual general education requirements, provided they comply with the parameters and rationale established by the USG [[1](#)].

NGCSU has a strong general education component in each undergraduate degree program. As a part of the University System of Georgia, general education requirements are a part of the Core Curriculum. For Associate of Science students, the general education requirement is a minimum of 20 hours [[2](#)]. For baccalaureate degree seeking students, the core curriculum comprises 60 hours of the degree program [[3](#)].

The Core Curriculum consists of five areas (AREAS A-E): Essential Skills (two English Composition classes and one Mathematics class—9 hours), Institutional Options (4 hours), Humanities/Fine Arts (6 hours),

Mathematics/Science/Technology (including 2 laboratory science courses— 11 hours), and Social Science (12 hours). AREA F, a sixth area of the Core, includes other lower division coursework applicable to that major (18 hours). The Core Curriculum at NGCSU is outlined in the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for baccalaureate students [4, p. 87].

The general education requirement for the Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree is 37 hours [5].

While preparing the NGCSU SACS Compliance Report, it was discovered that the ASN Core Curriculum did not include courses under Areas C & D of the Core Curriculum, as required. After being advised of the issue by the SACS Liaison, the Nursing Department Head researched this situation. It was determined that the oversight was a result of changes in the USG Core Curriculum during the process of conversion from quarters to semesters. Under the quarter system the Core was broken down under four categories; Humanities, Mathematics & Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Courses appropriate for the Major. Both the ASN & Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) curriculum contained courses in each of the required areas. When the new Core was introduced in 1997 it contained six narrower categories of classes, Areas A-F. The same course requirements for the degree were retained and Math 1101 and English 1101 were moved from Humanities and Math to Area A – Essential Skills. This move left no courses in Areas C & D for ASN students.

Revisions for the ASN and BSN Core Curriculums, that rectified the identified problems, were submitted to the Department of Nursing Curriculum and Evaluation Committee in July 2006 for review and approval [6]. These changes were approved and forwarded on July 31, 2006 to Office of Academic Affairs and the Dean of the School of Natural & Health Sciences. The Vice President for Academic Affairs gave Administrative Approval for the Core Curriculum changes on August 7, 2006, making them effective Fall 2006. These changes for the ASN & BSN core curriculum will be presented to the Academic Activities Committee at the initial Fall 2006 meeting.

Under the new ASN Core Curriculum, all new ASN nursing students will be advised to take a fine arts course under area C and 3 hours of math for area D. The current printed copy of the NGCSU 2006-2008 Undergraduate Bulletin will be different from the On-Line version due to the Department of Nursing ASN and BSN Core Curriculum revisions. The Undergraduate Bulletin is scheduled to be reprinted during Spring 2007 Semester with the new requirements.

## Document Reference:

Number	DB Num	Document Title	Resource
1		Board of Regents, General Education in the University System of Georgia	<a href="http://www.usg.edu/academics/core_curriculum/gen_ed.phtml">http://www.usg.edu/academics/core_curriculum/gen_ed.phtml</a>
2		Board of Regents, Academic Affairs Handbook, Section 2.03.04, Undergraduate Degree Requirements	<a href="http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.03/2.03.04.phtml">http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.03/2.03.04.phtml</a>
3		Board of Regents, Academic Affairs Handbook, Section 2.04.04, Core Curriculum Principles and Framework	<a href="http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.04/2.04.phtml">http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.04/2.04.phtml</a>
4		NGCSU Undergraduate Bulletin, 2004-2006, Core Curriculum	<a href="http://www.ngcsu.edu/academic/Catalog/2004_2006/Core%20Curriculum.shtml">http://www.ngcsu.edu/academic/Catalog/2004_2006/Core%20Curriculum.shtml</a> , p. 87 in PDF, p. 84 in hard copy.
5		NGCSU Undergraduate Bulletin, 2004-2006, A.S.N. Degree Requirements	<a href="http://www.ngcsu.edu/academic/Catalog/2004_2006/Nursing%20Department.shtml#Requirement">http://www.ngcsu.edu/academic/Catalog/2004_2006/Nursing%20Department.shtml#Requirement</a> , p. 255 in PDF, p. 252 in hard copy.
6		Summary of core changes to the ASN and BSN degrees	<a href="http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/ASN_Summary_Appendix_A.pdf">http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/ASN_Summary_Appendix_A.pdf</a>