

# **CSUB General Education Goals and Objectives**

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## **Contributors to this Document**

Mary Allen, Faculty Teaching & Learning Center

Robert Catlin, Provost

David Cisneros, Academic Advancement Center

Eugene Clark, Political Science

Jess Deegan, Psychology

Don Diboll, Physical Education

John Dirkse, Mathematics

Tom Doucet, Business

Kim Flachmann, English

Mike Flanagan, Business

Barbara Fleming, Nursing

Jim George, Associate Vice President

Jane Granskog, Anthropology

Omar Guevara, Communications

Gary Kessler, Philosophy

Peggy Leapley, Nursing

Roy LaFever, Chemistry

Jeff Mason, Theatre

Thomas Meyer, Computer Science

Maynard Moe, Biology

Paul Newberry, Philosophy

Richard Noel, Psychology

Don Oswald, Economics

David Olson, Business

Carol Raupp, Psychology

Mandy Rees, Theatre

Beth Rienzi, Psychology

Oliver Rink, History

Sharon Roberts, Biology

Edwin Sasaki, Psychology

Joanne Schmidt, Modern Languages

Shelley Stone, Art

John Tarjan, Business

Larry Taylor, Mathematics

Marc Thomas, Computer Science

Luis Vega, Psychology

Ted Weinheimer, Biology

## **Area A. Communication in the English Language**

# **Speaking and Listening**

Upon graduation, CSUB students will be able to:

Goal 1. Organize and evaluate ideas for oral presentations.

Objective 1. Locate, retrieve, evaluate, and incorporate material appropriate to a presentation.

Objective 2. Take into account the cultural contexts of oral communication, including freedom of expression, differences in cultural styles, and the ethics of communication.

Goal 2. Communicate through public speaking.

Objective 1. Deliver oral presentations or creative performances effectively.

Objective 2. Speak effectively, in standard American English, to the chosen purpose, whether it be to argue, inspire, generate emotion, or inform the listeners.

Objective 3. Employ language, voice, inflection, facial expression, gesture, and body language appropriate to the presentation and the listeners.

Objective 4. Present ideas concisely.

Goal 3. Listen and interact effectively.

Objective 1. Listen to an oral communication and summarize and critically evaluate its salient ideas.

Objective 2. Anticipate listeners' needs, analyze their responses, and adapt communications accordingly.

# **Writing and Reading**

Upon graduation, CSUB students will be able to:

Goal 1. Communicate effectively in writing to various audiences, including specialists in their major discipline.

Objective 1. Develop a well-reasoned written argument with a clear thesis and support it with appropriate evidence.

Objective 2. Use a variety of rhetorical modes: description, narration, illustration, process analysis, division/classification, comparison/contrast, definition, cause/effect, and argument/persuasion.

Objective 3. Develop a writing style appropriate for the content, audience, and discipline.

Objective 4. Write in standard edited American English.

Objective 5. Recognize and avoid plagiarism by properly citing the ideas and works of others.

Objective 6. Edit their own and others' writing so that the quality is improved.

Goal 2. Read and comprehend a variety of written materials, including reading material at the entry level of professional work in their major discipline; extract ideas from written material; and value the printed word as a source of information and enjoyment.

Objective 1. Comprehend a writer's message in courses across the curriculum literally, inferentially, and analytically.

Objective 2. Differentiate between main ideas and supporting details.

Objective 3. Discern the style and tone of a writer.

Objective 4. Abstract thoughts and ideas from reading material.

Objective 5. Appreciate and enjoy reading.

## **Critical Thinking and Logical Reasoning**

Upon graduation, CSUB students will be able to:

Goal 1. Construct a good argument.

Objective 1. Develop a clear thesis of appropriate scope.

Objective 2. Provide reasons from a variety of disciplines that support the thesis.

Objective 3. Organize the evidence so that it adequately supports the thesis.

Goal 2. Distinguish argumentative discourse from other kinds of discourse.

Objective 1. Recognize inferential links.

Objective 2. Identify the conclusion of an argument.

Objective 3. Identify the premises of an argument.

Goal 3. Distinguish different kinds of arguments.

Objective 1. Recognize inductive arguments.

Objective 2. Recognize deductive arguments.

Goal 4. Identify hidden aspects of arguments.

Objective 1. Identify implied premises in an argument.

Objective 2. Identify unstated assumptions of arguments.

Objective 3. Identify implications of claims and conclusions.

Goal 5. Evaluate the quality of reasoning.

Objective 1. Choose the appropriate criteria for evaluating arguments.

Objective 2. Evaluate support given to claims and conclusions.

Objective 3. Identify flaws in reasoning, particularly informal fallacies (such as Appeal to Authority, Ad Hominem, and Stereotyping) and formal fallacies (such as Undistributed Middle Term).

Goal 6. Judge the credibility of different kinds of sources.

Objective 1. Identify good sources of information via traditional media—newspapers, journals, and books.

Objective 2. Identify good sources of information on the Internet.

Objective 3. Evaluate the use of scientific data.

## **Area B. Mathematics, Life and Physical Sciences**

# **Mathematics**

Upon completion of the GE Mathematics course, CSUB students will or will be able to:

Goal 1. Have a positive attitude toward mathematics.

Objective 1. View mathematics with less anxiety, heightened interest, and increased confidence as a result of their educational experiences.

Objective 2. Regard mathematics not simply as a set of techniques, but as a way to think, reason, and conceptualize.

Goal 2. Be aware of the usefulness of mathematics.

Objective 1. Recognize when a specific problem or process may be addressed mathematically and whether they have the ability to solve it; or know which resources to consult in order to solve it.

Objective 2. Understand and appreciate the connections between mathematics and other disciplines (e.g., geometry and art, statistics and history), and including connections between mathematics and their major.

Goal 3. Be competent in the use of mathematics.

Objective 1. Understand and perform requisite mathematical calculations and symbolic manipulation, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponentiation, percentages, and algebraic manipulation.

- Objective 2. Translate verbal statements to and from mathematical expressions.
- Objective 3. Use principles of estimation in a variety of contexts, such as scales, ratios, and proportions.
- Objective 4. Develop and apply basic descriptive statistical techniques to data collection and also be able to recognize potential sources of errors and abuses.

Goal 4. Demonstrate an understanding of the uses of mathematics.

- Objective 1. Interpret, make appropriate judgements, and draw reasonable conclusions based on numerical, graphical, and symbolic information.
- Objective 2. Critically evaluate quantitative information, and identify deceptive or erroneous reasoning.

Goal 5. Apply mathematics.

- Objective 1. Appropriately apply mathematics to model physical and social processes which they encounter in professional, vocational, and everyday settings.
- Objective 2. Use mathematics-based reasoning to help evaluate alternatives and make decisions on financial, professional, or personal options.
- Objective 3. Effectively organize, summarize, and present information in quantitative forms, including the use of tables, graphs, and formulas.

Goal 6. Use appropriate technological tools.

- Objective 1. Use appropriate technology, including calculators and computers, as tools to assist with numerical and graphical analyses; and also recognize their limitations.

## **Life And Physical Sciences and Thematic Courses of Natural Sciences and Technology**

Upon completion of the Area B and Theme 1 GE courses CSUB students will be able to:

Goal 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and concepts of the life and physical sciences.

Objective 1. Define and explain the unifying themes of the natural sciences (e.g. change, scale, pattern, energy).

Objective 2. Define and explain basic principles, concepts, and theories of the natural sciences (e.g. energy, evolution, tectonics, Newtonian mechanics).

Goal 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method.

Objective 1. Utilize the scientific method to design simple experiments and to collect, analyze, and evaluate data in a lab or field setting.

Objective 2. Utilize appropriate quantitative methods to describe theories.

Objective 3. Explain how scientists establish and evaluate theories through the use of the scientific method.

Goal 3. Apply the principles, concepts, and methods of the life and physical sciences to everyday life.

Objective 1. Distinguish between science and pseudo-science.

Objective 2. Explain the role science plays in technological development.

Objective 3. Recognize applications of science in everyday life.

Objective 4. Recognize the limits of science when applied to problems in the natural world.

Goal 4. Demonstrate an understanding of the role science and technology play in society.

Objective 1. Discuss ethical issues related to the application of science in everyday life.

Objective 2. Recognize the impact of science and technology on global issues (e.g., global warming).

## **Area C. Arts & Humanities**

Upon completion of the Area C and Theme 2 GE courses CSUB students will be able to:

Goal 1. Understand the experiences and ideas of others.

Objective 1. Explain the effect of gender, ethnicity, and social class on experience, expression and/or creative production.

Objective 2. Describe the experiences of a culture different from their own.

Objective 3. Explain the differences and similarities between experiences across disparate cultures and among various communities within a single culture.

Goal 2. Understand one's own culture and community.

Objective 1. Describe assumptions underlying creative works within one's own culture and community.

Objective 2. Describe personal assumptions about the human experience underlying one's own creative works.

Goal 3. Understand the interaction between culture and creative expression.

Objective 1. Explain the connection between cultural characteristics and creative expression.

Objective 2. Explain how the expression of an idea is a function of its culture.

Objective 3. Discuss how material conditions of a culture affect creative expression.

Goal 4. Appreciate and critically evaluate diverse value systems.

Objective 1. Distinguish fact from value.

Objective 2. Explain how distinct values can form a system.

Objective 3. Describe how value systems develop.

Objective 4. Utilize value systems to critically evaluate controversies and defend a personal position.

Goal 5. Understand changes in the human condition over time.

Objective 1. Describe major historical trends in at least one major world region.

Objective 2. Explain how historical developments (e.g., the invention of the printing press or the Internet) affect creative expression and culture.

Goal 6. Critically analyze texts and works of art from different cultures.

Objective 1. Write critical reviews of documents and works of art, taking into account their cultural context.

Goal 7. Have an interest in and understanding of three of the following areas: Art or Performing Arts, Foreign Languages, History, Literature, and Philosophy or Religious Studies.

Objective 1. Describe issues, concepts, or approaches of three Humanities areas in various writing exercises.

Objective 2. Demonstrate an increased interest in three Humanities areas by seeking out experiences or opportunities to further develop their appreciation and understanding of these areas.

## **Area D. Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Upon completion of the Area D and Theme 3 GE courses CSUB students will be able to:

Goal 1. Understand the basic methodologies, whether quantitative or qualitative, of at least two social sciences (Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology).

Objective 1. Explain the basic methodological approaches of two social sciences.

Objective 2. Distinguish social science methodology from other ways of knowing and understanding the social world.

Goal 2. Know the basic concepts and theories of the social sciences.

Objective 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic terms and concepts of two or more social sciences.

- Objective 2. Demonstrate knowledge of major theories within two different disciplines.
  - Objective 3. Describe what aspects of the social world are investigated by the different social sciences (i.e., the domains of the social sciences).
- Goal 3. Apply social science methods and principles to understand the social world of the United States and the world beyond its borders.
- Objective 1. Apply social science methods and principles to understand significant American economic, cultural, political, and social phenomena and trends.
  - Objective 2. Apply social science methods and principles to understand world affairs and trends.
  - Objective 3. Apply social science methods and principles to understand individual and group behaviors.
  - Objective 4. Apply social science methods and principles to understand diversity issues within the United States and throughout the world.

### **Women or American Ethnic/Racial Minorities Requirement**

Upon completion of a baccalaureate degree from CSUB graduates should be able to:

- Goal 1. Identify the various dimensions of human diversity important in our modern culture and the important doctrines, policies and approaches to diversity in the United States.
  - Objective 1. Identify race, ethnicity, cultural heritage, and gender as important dimensions of diversity without being prompted.
  - Objective 2. Identify physical disability, religious preference, class, and sexual orientation as important dimensions of diversity without being prompted.

- Objective 3. Define and discuss the concepts of race, ethnicity, cultural heritage, gender, physical disability, religious preference, class, and sexual orientation.
- Objective 4. Name the major racial, ethnic, cultural and religious groups within California.
- Objective 5. Discuss doctrines/policies/approaches to diversity within U.S. society (e.g., affirmative action, equal opportunity, comparable worth, freedom of expression, right to privacy).
- Objective 6. Identify the benefits and costs which diversity can bring to a society.

Goal 2. Identify important historical developments in the experiences of diverse groups in the United States.

- Objective 1. Name and discuss the importance of seminal events, legislation and court rulings which have had a major impact on the treatment and experiences of diverse groups in the United States.
- Objective 2. Discuss how different ethnic/racial groups have become part of American society and how their experiences have differed.
- Objective 3. Discuss the evolution of the roles of women in the United States.
- Objective 4. Discuss how the attitudes of Americans towards gays/lesbians have evolved.

Goal 3. Be aware of how their own backgrounds and experiences influence how they react to diversity.

- Objective 1. Discuss the major cultural components which have influenced their own identity.
- Objective 2. Demonstrate understanding of how their own identity influences their beliefs, values, and interactions with others.
- Objective 3. Examine and challenge their own prejudicial attitudes.

Goal 4. Understand the perspectives of diverse groups.

- Objective 1. Be conversant with the power/dominance perspective and be able to discuss issues related to gender, race, class, etc. using that perspective.

Objective 2. Discuss ways in which institutions within U.S. society have impinged upon the rights of diverse groups and how that may foster a distrust of institutions in many individuals from diverse groups..

Objective 3. Identify how experiences of diverse groups may impact their perception of social phenomena and events.

Goal 5. Be sensitive to language, approaches, and cultural conventions when discussing issues.

Objective 1. Demonstrate an ability to alter communication strategies depending upon audience characteristics.

Objective 2. Demonstrate effective listening skills when dealing with people from diverse backgrounds (listening for intent, perspectives, etc.).

Objective 3. Identify and avoid words and phrases which may carry unintended connotations or be offensive and substitute with alternate words and phrases.

Objective 4. Utilize preferred names for ethnic/racial/national groups.

Objective 5. Be familiar with how diverse experiences and perspectives can affect approaches to family, career, social groups, government, etc.

Objective 6. Exhibit tolerance and respect for the opinions and approaches of members of diverse groups.

Goal 6. Value diversity.

Objective 1. Be aware of important contributions made to society by individuals from diverse groups.

Objective 2. Appreciate the benefits of diversity for educational institutions, government, society, family groups, etc.

Objective 3. Demonstrate respect for the dignity of the individual, irrespective of the characteristics mentioned above.