

Policy History
Policy No. AC11
Approving Jurisdiction: Senate
Administrative Responsibility: Provost and Vice President Academic
Effective Date: January 26, 2009

General Education in Degree Programs Policy

A. PURPOSE/RATIONALE

To establish General Education requirements in baccalaureate degree programs

B. SCOPE

The *General Education in Degree Programs* policy applies to all students admitted to, enrolled in, and graduating from baccalaureate degree programs at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

C. PRINCIPLES

1. To ensure quality baccalaureate degree programs, Kwantlen Polytechnic University will provide sufficient breadth of study across disciplines as well as depth of study in a core discipline.
2. Kwantlen Polytechnic University expects baccalaureate degree students to be able to synthesize and evaluate information, think critically, form reasoned arguments, and communicate effectively.

D. LIMITS

1. Individual programs will set General Education credit requirements commensurate with degree level standards and professional practice within peer programs and institutions.
2. General Education requirements in any given baccalaureate degree will correspond with the expectations of relevant approval and professional accreditation bodies.
3. As a receiving institution that admits students with non-degree credentials from other institutions, Kwantlen will continue to offer flexible, program-specific transfer pathways.

E. PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

1. Although General Education requirements will vary depending upon the educational focus, demands, and skills requisite to any specific baccalaureate degree program, they normally consist of 24 credits in university studies drawn from at least three academic disciplines across three different Faculties.
2. All baccalaureate degrees must include a minimum of 18 credits of General Education, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. 3 credits from a writing-intensive course at the 1100 level or higher,
 - b. 12 credits, outside the core academic discipline, in at least three different academic disciplines; and,
 - c. 3 credits at the 3000 or 4000 level from outside the core academic discipline and Faculty, or from a course developed within the academic discipline and approved by Senate for the purpose of General Education.
3. Details on General Education requirements within specific baccalaureate degrees are available on the program information pages of Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Online Calendar.

F. DEFINITIONS

1. University Studies
 - a. University Studies refers to courses numbered 1100 or higher that may be counted for credit within baccalaureate degree programs.
2. Writing-intensive Course
 - a. A writing-intensive course is understood to be one in which writing instruction and recursive practice and assessment are the main focus of the course, such as English 1100.
3. Academic Discipline
 - a. Academic discipline is understood to be a distinct subject area or department within a Faculty.