

General Education Program (GEP) [120th Spl UPD UC Meeting: 04 April 2012; 1280th BOR Meeting: 04 June 2012]

The General Education Program is a set of courses classified under the Arts and Humanities (AH), Social Sciences and Philosophy (SSP), and Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) domains that give students knowledge and competencies that will better prepare them for the basic understanding of various ways of knowing. This makes the UP student a well-rounded person ready for lifelong learning skills.

The liberal education thrust of GE aims to mold the UP student to becoming a holistic person, a more independent, creative, and critical thinker, a morally sound and intellectual individual of high integrity, and well able to adapt to the fast-changing pace of today's living.

The GE Program was first adopted in 1958 and underwent several revisions thereafter. In 2001, the GE Program was revitalized. Known as the RGE Program (RGEP), it was premised on freedom of choice and no prerequisites. It was implemented in the First Semester AY 2002-2003.

In 2012, while retaining its philosophy, framework, course goals and aims, a revision was made in the GE program such that certain courses were prescribed under each domain while informally referred to as the "hybrid" RGEP, this is referred to in this Catalogue as the existing General Education Program (GEP).

UC Prescribed GE Courses (Annex 2: UPD UC Prescribed GE Courses)

GE Courses from other CUs (Annex 3: List of GE Courses from other CUs)

GEP Objectives

General

- 1) To broaden the student's intellectual and cultural horizons;
- 2) To foster a commitment to nationalism balanced by a sense of internationalism;
- 3) To cultivate a capacity for independent, critical, and creative thinking;
- 4) To infuse a passion for learning with a high sense of moral and intellectual integrity.

Specific

- 1) To acquire basic skills and competencies in mathematics, reasoning, and communication;
- 2) To develop an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the various disciplines of the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and philosophy;
- 3) To develop the ability to integrate and/or adapt the knowledge and skills acquired from the various disciplines.

GEP Framework

The GEP framework lays down the requirements of the Program and defines the character of the GE courses.

- 1) The GEP ensures that the domains of knowledge contain a healthy mix of disciplines.

The GEP framework requires that students take fifteen (15) units in each of the three (3) domains of knowledge – Arts and Humanities; Social Sciences and Philosophy; and Mathematics, Science and Technology – six (6) units of which must be in Philippine Studies, to be taken from any of the domains.

2) Every GE course, existing or to be instituted, must:

a) satisfy at least three (3) of the following four (4) objectives:

- broaden the student's intellectual and cultural horizons
- foster a commitment to nationalism balanced with a sense of internationalism
- develop an awareness of various disciplines
- integrate knowledge and skills

b) apply at least one (1) of the following modes of inquiry

- quantitative and other forms of reasoning
- interpretive and aesthetic approaches

c) develop the following competencies

- communication (oral and written) and
- independent, creative, and critical thinking

3) A GE course must not have a prerequisite

4) Academic units that offer GE courses must take into account the attributes of the ideal GE faculty.

GEP Approach

The GEP adopts a semi-structured approach with common goals and learner-customized content instead of a fully prescriptive, structured approach, with fixed common content, provided that:

1) students select courses within the GE framework;

2) prerequisites of major courses are respected; and

3) students who perform below a certain cut-off in UPCAT Math and/or English proficiency and comprehension sub-tests shall enroll in Practical Mathematics (Math 2) and/or Basic College English (English 1) during the first semester of their first year in UP. These courses taken under what is popularly referred to as the "Bridge Program" will be credited as part of the 15-unit requirement in the Math, Science and Technology (MST) and/or Arts and Humanities domains, as made effective in the First Semester of 2003-2004. [1167th BOR Meeting: 30 January 2003]