

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

University Policy, Adoption of Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and Writing in the Disciplines (WID)

Legislative History:

On September 30, 2024, the Academic Senate approved the University Policy, Adoption of Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and Writing in the Disciplines (WID), presented by Senator Wong for the Curriculum and Research Committee.

ACTION BY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

Action by University President:

Date: October 3, 2024

Signed and approved by: 
**Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President,
San José State University**

University Policy, Adoption of Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and Writing in the Disciplines (WID)

Rescinds: University Policy S22-5

Whereas: The California State University (CSU) [General Education \(GE\) Requirements Policy](#) was updated to reflect the requirements of AB928 (Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee); and

Whereas: This update led to the reduction and elimination in some GE areas; be it therefore

Resolved: That C&R shall use the consent calendar as a mechanism for updating GE Guidelines; and

Resolved: That C&R submit GE Guidelines to the Senate to be adopted effective Fall 2025; and be it further

Resolved: That the General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI) and Writing in the Disciplines (WID) Guidelines shall undergo a full university review initiated by the General Education Advisory Committee beginning in AY 2034/35. Any recommended changes to the GE Guidelines shall be referred to C&R for deliberation.

Resolved: That the following becomes university policy.

Approved: September 16, 2024
Vote: 8-0-0
Present: Megan Chang, Marc d'Alarcao, Stefan Frazier, Marie Haverfield, Melinda Jackson, Scott Shaffer, Cristina Velarde, Hiu Yung Wong (chair)

Absent: Sehtej Khehra, Jessica Trask

Workload Impact: The university catalog and website will need to be updated. Faculty and staff advisors need to be informed and trained on the new guidelines.

Financial Impact: No financial impact is anticipated at the university level although FTES distribution changes will undoubtedly impact departments.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and Writing in the Disciplines (WID)

1. Contextual preface:

- a. CSU GE requirements have been designed to complement the major program and electives completed by each baccalaureate candidate. These requirements are designed to provide the knowledge and perspectives that will enable CSU students to confront personal, cultural, moral, and social issues that are an inevitable part of human life, and cultivate enthusiasm for lifelong learning. (CSU Policy on (GE) General Education Requirements)¹
- b. The authority for this policy on GE guidelines relies on the unique role of faculty in shared governance in institutions of higher learning with respect to policies on academic and professional matters as recognized in Section 3561 of the California Higher Education Employee Relations Act (HEERA) of 1978.
- c. Consistent with section 6.2 Campus Responsibility of the CSU Policy on (GE) General Education Requirements, the SJSU implementation of the General Education requirements for SJSU students may add additional content requirements to the minimum specified by the CSU Policy on (GE) General Education Requirements. That is, individual CSUs can provide additional learning outcomes and content in given areas of GE.
- d. Consistent with section 6.2.5 GE Review and Assessment of the CSU Policy on (GE) General Education Requirements, SJSU shall engage in the assessment of GE areas, courses, and the GE program.

2. Role of GE guidelines

- a. **Guidelines have the force of policy.**

¹ The chancellor's office-driven response to update CSU GE requirements removed five lower-division units from GE requirements. It does this by: adding a one-unit laboratory for Biological or Physical Science, deleting one of three Arts or Humanities courses (formerly Area C), and deleting Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (formerly Area E). A total of five units were removed from lower-division CSU GE requirements. It is up to the individual CSU campuses to determine how to respond to these reductions.

The GE Guidelines are the implementation of CSU GE policy. The expectation is that SJSU specific elements and interpretations will be required of SJSU-approved GE courses

3. Faculty oversight

- a. All new courses (GE or non-GE) are approved through the normal curricular approval process. GE certification is a part of this process. Continuing GE certification of already certified GE courses is a process currently tied to departmental program planning.

4. Roles of different entities with regard to GE guidelines

- a. Curriculum & Research (C&R) Committee
 - i. C&R is the body responsible for maintaining, updating, and interpreting the GE Guidelines. C&R shall be authorized to recommend changes to the GE Guidelines as needed. All recommended changes shall be presented on the Consent Calendar to the Academic Senate;
- b. SJSU General Education Advisory Committee (SJSU GEAC)
 - i. As the campus experts on GE, GEAC provides recommendations to C&R during the GE Guidelines update;
- c. Director of General Education
 - i. Shall maintain records of suggestions for modification to the guidelines and communicate, at least annually, with C&R and GEAC regarding the suggestions.
 - ii. Shall oversee GE program assessment