

At SVSU, General Education is a 35-credit program spread over 10 broad categories. In addition to the overarching tri-partite goals of critical thinking, logical reasoning, and effective communication, each of the 10 categories has specific student learning objectives. Two courses chosen from Categories 2 through 8 must be Communication Intensive (CI) Courses. Categories 3, 9, and 10 must be completed in the student's first 75 credit hours. The General Education Committee (GEC) has the responsibility for oversight of the program, reviews course applications for inclusion in the program to ensure that they address the tripartite and category specific goals and include effective assessment plans. The committee also considers the need to offer a sufficient number of courses within each category to provide students with a reasonable set of choices while keeping the program focused and manageable. In addition to course-level assessment, the overall General Education program is assessed for its effectiveness through the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) to supplement the course level assessments and provide benchmark data.

Category	Description
Category 1	Literature (1 course)
Category 2	Arts (1 course)
Category 3	Numerical Understanding (1 course)
Category 4	Natural Sciences (2 courses from 2 departments, including one lab course).
Category 5	Historical and Philosophical Ideas (1 course)
Category 6	Social Sciences (1 course)
Category 7	Social Institutions (1 course)
Category 8	International Systems (1 course or study abroad)
Category 9	Oral Communications (1 course)
Category 10	Written Communication (1 course)

Additionally, rather than being segregated in a separate category, questions tied to diversity are considered across categories within discipline-specific modalities; because of this, several of the categories have elements tied to human diversity in their governing criteria. The program is set up to be reasonably flexible: while some majors dictate which courses their students must take to satisfy General Education requirements, others leave course choice up to the students.

Many departments, especially those with specialized accreditation, such as Education, Health Sciences and Business, have developed assessment workshops at the beginning of each academic year to gauge how aspects of liberal arts education are being integrated into the programs. Attendance is generally voluntary, but participation rates for these workshops have grown continuously, a reflection of the campus-wide culture of assessment. Due to the changing nature of the professional programs, many have integrated aspects of general education across their program, specifically ethics, critical thinking, and written communication. SVSU is in the process of examining the capstone courses to measure the impact of the essential learning outcomes on students. One focus of LEAP has been on high impact practices through co-curricular programs focused on community engagement and service that resulted from SVSU receiving the Carnegie Community Engagement Designation.