

**Support Document – Local Degree Requirements Language  
Action Item (1<sup>st</sup> time) 16 October 2024**

**SRJC Local Graduation Requirement Areas:** This is existing language as currently used which will also need to be updated to reflect new CAL-GETC standards (*more so for Student Success and Wellness than American Institutions*) should we proceed with local degree requirements.

**(Proposed Area 7) American Institutions (minimum 3 semester units) – *directly represents state language***

Courses fulfilling American Institutions requirement help students understand the history of the United States and/or the rights and responsibilities of participating in the democracy of the United States. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that students understand how American democracy works and how to contribute to society as responsible citizens. Graduates should have to opportunity to “acquire knowledge and skills that will help them to comprehend the workings of American democracy and of the society in which they live, to enable them to contribute to that society as responsible and constructive citizens” (Title 5 40404). The learning objectives include:

- a. Understanding significant events in US history over a period of at least 100 years
- b. Understanding the role of social and ethnic groups in these events
- c. Understanding the continuity of the American experience and its origins in other cultures
- d. Understanding the political philosophies of the Constitution's framers

(With an advisory of freshman composition [ENGL C1000])

**(Proposed Area 8) Student Success and Wellness (minimum of 3 semester units) – *formerly Lifelong Learning and Self-Development – language below is existing Area E language and would need to be updated to reflect new focus.***

- a. Courses that meet the learning objectives of Area 8 draw on findings from the biological, behavioral, and social sciences to study humans from psychological, sociological, and physiological perspectives.
- b. This requirement is designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings. Physical activity may be included, if it is an integral part of the study elements described herein.
- c. Content may include topics such as student success strategies, human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, information literacy, social relationships and relationships with the environment, as well as implications of death and dying or avenues for lifelong learning. Courses in this area shall focus on the development of skills, abilities, and dispositions.

• **Questions to Consider in Action Discussion (non-exhaustive). With the establishment of CAL-GETC Areas One thru Six effective Fall 2025...**

- Does the Senate wish to adopt the proposed Area Seven as a Local Degree Requirement?
- Does the Senate wish to adopt the proposed Area Eight as a Local Degree Requirement?
- If adopted, Shall the language used to describe Area Seven/Eight be updated?
  - *If so, how shall the language be updated?*
- With a short timeframe for enacting – ***all decisions must be reached on/before December 4<sup>th</sup>*** – how shall the Senate go about with any necessary language updates? *Options may include...*
  - *Establish Senator-based Taskforce (standalone or combined Areas 7 & 8)*
  - *Refer to ASEC to consult with faculty from Areas 7 & 8 who have already contributed to our discussions / support materials to date*
- ***Please keep in mind multiple motions and actions will likely be required***

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**New Title Five CAL-GETC Areas One thru Six Descriptions  
(for reference only –  
directly represents state language)**

**(Area 1) English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking (minimum of 6 semester units including one course from each subarea, A and B):**

- A. English Composition (minimum of 3 semester/4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.
- B. Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses.

**(Area 2) Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (minimum of 3 semester units).** Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and may include mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer languages, and related disciplines.

**(Area 3) Arts and Humanities (minimum of 3 semester units).** Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation, and develop students' aesthetic understandings and abilities to make value judgments. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

**(Area 4) Social and Behavioral Sciences (minimum of 3 semester units).** Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about how people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

**(Area 5) Natural Sciences (minimum of 3 semester units).** Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena, helping students appreciate and understand the scientific method and the relationships between science and other human activities. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

**(Area 6) Ethnic Studies (minimum of 3 semester).** Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies: Black Studies/African American Studies/Africana Studies; Native American Studies/Chicano/a/x and Latino/a/x Studies/La Raza Studies; and Asian American Studies, and related areas of study.