

Advisor's Guide to General Education Petitions (2005-2006)

Introduction: The University offers a petitioning procedure through which students can occasionally gain exceptions to the General Education curriculum. This document is designed to outline the principles and procedures of the petitioning process.

1. *Who can petition a general education requirement?*

Courses have been approved in seven general areas within the General Education curriculum. Students must choose courses from the approved lists as stated in the University Catalog. All freshmen students enrolling Fall 2004 and later must complete the General Education requirements as stated in the UT catalog. If a student falls into one of the categories listed below, the advisor should determine if the course being considered for a petition meets the "spirit" of the specific General Education requirement. See the Statements of Purpose for each General Education category on pages 17 - 22 of the UT Catalog.

Note: *While a course may be approved to meet a General Education requirement, it may not necessarily meet other degree requirements for the student's College/program (for example, Econ LD may be approved as a Social Science course but may not substitute for Econ 201 in Business Administration majors and the minor).*

Occasional exceptions will be considered for the following students:

A. Transfer students

Transfer students may petition courses that were completed at their previous institution.

B. Returning students

Students who were enrolled at UT prior to Fall 2004 and whose enrollment was interrupted may petition courses that previously fulfilled General Education requirements for their College.

C. Students in new majors

Students who choose to pursue new majors that first appear in the 2004 UT catalog may petition courses that previously fulfilled General Education requirements for their College.

2. *Blanket Petitions*

The following courses have been approved through blanket petitions to meet the General Education requirements.

Individual petitions do not have to be submitted for these specific courses:

- A. Students who have completed and received a grade for Math 119, Math 201, and/or Math 130 will be allowed to use the completed Math course to meet a QR requirement if the course was completed by September 1, 2004. For those programs implementing the new General Education requirements in 2005, September 1, 2005 will be the date.
- B. The following courses that were approved by the Undergraduate Council after February 2005 will satisfy specific General Education Requirements:

Architecture 111	Architecture and the Built Environment (AH)
BCMB 409	Perspectives in Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology (WC)
- C. International students who did not complete US history in high school may satisfy the Cultures and Civilization requirement by completing History 221-222.
- D. Students completing degrees using the Fall 2004 catalog may continue to use Geography 101-102 World Geography for the Cultures and Civilization (CC) requirement regardless of when they complete the course. For students on a 2005 degree plan, these courses will meet the Social Sciences designation only.

- 3. The DARS system will date range General Education courses based upon date of approval so that we can determine whether or not a course met the General Education criteria at the time the course was taken. This will be especially important in regard to the Basic Skills Requirements (WC, OC, and QR). The exception to this would be the approved English courses which meet the WC requirement, Journalism and Electronic Media 200 and 201 which meet the WC requirement, and Communications Studies 210 and 240 which meet the OC requirement regardless of when the courses were taken. In addition, see the statement regarding Geography 101-102 under #2-D.

4. *Process*

The steps involved in this process are as follows:

- A. The student completes the petition with the assistance of his/her advisor and obtains the signature of the advisor.
 - The advisor should determine if the course meets the “spirit” of the General Education requirement. See the Statements of Purpose for each General Education category on pages 17 - 22 of the UT Catalog.

- Only one General Education category may be addressed on the petition form.
 - All information on the petition form must be completed.
 - The petition must include a course description and a syllabus.
 - The petition must include a rationale for the request.
 - Once reviewed by the advisor, he/she should sign and date the form.
- B. The student takes the signed petition to the Student’s College Advising Center or office.
- C. The College will “date stamp” the form and send the petition request to the University Registrar’s Office who will forward it to the appropriate General Education Sub-Committee for consideration.
- D. The petitions will be forwarded to the Sub-Committees as received and will be reviewed on regular schedule to ensure timely notification.
- E. Once the Sub-Committee has made a decision, the University Registrar’s Office will notify the student and the College.
- F. If a petition is approved, the College will enter the information in DARS.

General Education Committee Sub-Committee Contact Information

Basic Skills:

- Communicating through Writing – Mary Jo Reiff (mreiff@utk.edu)
- Communicating Orally – John Haas (jhaas1@utk.edu)
- Quantitative Reasoning – Chuck Collins (ccollins@math.utk.edu)

Broadened Perspectives:

- Natural Sciences – Otto Schwarz (oschwarz@utk.edu)
- Arts and Humanities – Don Cox (dcox@utk.edu)
- Cultures & Civilizations – TBD (contact Laura Jolly at ljolly@utk.edu)
- Social Sciences – Suzanne Kurth (skurth@utk.edu)