

COMMON CORE OF GENERAL EDUCATION

DEFINITIONS YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN SELECTING YOUR PROGRAM AND COURSES

1. **Credit Hours (cr.)** - College work is measured in units called credit hours. A credit-hour value is assigned to each course and is normally equal to the number of hours the course meets each week. Credit hours may also be referred to as semester hours.
2. **Contact Hours** - The actual number of hours required in a class or lab.
3. **Lecture Hours (lec.)** - The number of clock hours in the fall or spring semester the student spends each week in the classroom. This time frame is different for the shorter summer sessions.
4. **Laboratory Hours (lab.)** - The number of clock hours in the fall or spring semester the student spends each week in the laboratory or other learning environment. This time frame is different for the shorter summer sessions.
5. **Prerequisite** - A course that must be successfully completed or a requirement such as related life experiences that must be met before enrolling in another course.
6. **Corequisite** - A course that must be taken during the same or earlier semester as the course in which one is enrolling.
7. **Common Core** - A term which refers to courses as listed under Groups I II III IV of Naugatuck Valley Community-College's Common Core of General Education which the faculty of the College considers essential to its degree programs.
8. **Electives** - Courses which may be chosen from items 9 10 or 11.
9. **Liberal Arts Electives** - All courses listed in the common core under Groups I II III and IV and advanced courses with the same designations except (HRT) Horticulture.
10. **General Electives** - All credit courses numbered 100 or higher listed in the catalog. Students should consider transferability of courses when choosing general electives.
11. **Directed Electives** - Credit courses that satisfy specific program requirements. These courses are listed with each program area.

12. **Foreign Language Equivalencies** - The following equivalencies satisfy the modern language requirements:

- a) 3 years of high school work in a single foreign language ancient or modern or
- b) 2 years of high school work and an added semester of a college course at a more advanced level in a single foreign language or
- c) 2 semesters of a single foreign language in college.

Note: Students may also take CLEP (College Level Examination Program) to satisfy the modern language requirements. Information on these tests is available from the Testing Center.

Note: ESL students may use up to six credits of Intermediate and Advanced levels of ESL courses to fulfill the Modern Language requirements.

13. **Non-Credit** - A course of study that does not apply towards a college degree; college credit is not earned. Typically designed as short courses, workshops, and customized programs; non-credit programs focus on knowledge and skills that can be applied directly to the job or personal and professional growth.
14. **Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Certificates** - CEU certificates are awarded in conjunction with mandatory continuing education requirements across different fields including: teacher professional development real estate nursing allied health insurance appraisal. Prior approval from the learner's Local Education Association must be obtained. Typically CEU's are awarded on a 1:10 ratio (i.e. one CEU for every ten hours of qualified instruction).

This College continues to add and adjust courses course designations and course numbers to its offerings. The common core and the definitions will be adjusted accordingly.

OUR PHILOSOPHY AND REQUIREMENTS

Naugatuck Valley Community College considers general education an important component of its degree programs. While an appropriate level of mastery in occupations and technologies is clearly essential students are better prepared to live in the world and use this mastery only if they are also capable of understanding fundamental theory weighing values and forming independent judgments.

The College defines General Education in terms of the following competencies and goals:

Appreciation of the Aesthetic Dimensions of Humankind 3 credits	Students will understand the diverse nature, meanings, and functions of creative endeavors through the study and practice of literature, music, the theatrical and visual arts, and related forms of expression.
Appreciation of the Ethical Dimensions of Humankind (Across the Curriculum)	Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social and political problems.
Continuing Learning and Information Literacy 3 credits	Students will be able to use traditional and digital technology to access evaluate and apply information to the needs or questions confronting them throughout their academic professional and personal lives.
Critical Analysis and Logical Thinking (Across the Curriculum)	Students will be able to organize, interpret, and evaluate evidence and ideas within and across disciplines; draw reasoned inferences and defensible conclusions; and solve problems and make decisions based on analytical processes.
Historical Knowledge and Understanding 3 credits	Students will study the interrelatedness of various realms of human experience from multiple historical perspectives.
Oral Communication 3 credits	Students will be prepared to develop oral messages of varying lengths and styles that communicate effectively and appropriately across a variety of settings.
Quantitative Reasoning 3 credits	Students will learn to recognize, understand, and use the quantitative elements they encounter in various aspects of their lives. Students will develop a habit of mind that uses quantitative skills to solve problems and make informed decisions.
Scientific Knowledge and Understanding 3-4 credits	Students will gain a broad base of scientific knowledge and methodologies in the natural sciences. This will enable them to develop scientific literacy the knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts and processes essential for personal decision making and understanding scientific issues.
Scientific Reasoning 3-4 credits	Students will become familiar with science as a method of inquiry. Students will develop a habit of mind that uses quantitative skills to solve problems and make informed decisions.
Knowledge and Understanding of Social Phenomena 3 credits	Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person’s or group’s attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and actions and how these systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational, or cultural means.
Written Communication (6 Credits and Across the Curriculum)	Students will be prepared to develop written texts of varying lengths and styles that communicate effectively and appropriately across a variety of settings.

COMMON CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Focusing on the above competencies, course work in the common core ensures that NVCC students gain the fundamental skills, knowledge, and values needed for success in their academic, professional, and personal lives. A list of courses that fulfill each competency may be found under the “Approved Courses” link on the General Education website: <http://www.nv.edu/GEACC> and in this catalog. Students will fulfill General Education Requirements by completing the requisite number of credits in courses associated with each competency. For competencies identified as “Across the Curriculum” students should adhere to program requirements in order to fulfill these areas.

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OR REASONING REQUIREMENT

Students must successfully complete at least one Scientific Reasoning or Scientific Knowledge course that contains a lab component.

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OVERSIGHT AND ASSESSMENT

The General Education Requirements are reviewed and assessed by the General Education Assessment and Curriculum design Committee (GEACC). This committee is composed of one library representative, one student representative, and 10 faculty as well as non-voting members from the Registrar, Institutional Research, and the Dean of Academic Affairs. The committee must have at least one member with expertise in each competency area, and each academic division must have at least one and no more than 3 members.

The duties of the committee include identifying and approving college courses used to fulfill competency requirements. The committee is also responsible for researching, scheduling, and assisting in the implementation of assessment methods to determine if students are achieving competency outcomes.

GENERAL EDUCATION FOR CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY TRANSFER STUDENTS

In order to ease transfer between state colleges and universities within the Connecticut State Colleges and University system NVCC’s General Education program reflects the system’s General Education Framework. Based on this Framework students graduating with an Associate degree who complete NVCC’s General Education Requirements will be granted General Education credit upon transfer to any Connecticut State University or Community College.

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NVCC'S GENERAL EDUCATION CORE

Aesthetic Dimensions/Written Communication • Complete one of the following courses for 3 credits.

ART*H101	ENG*H211	ENG*H231	ENG*H269	MUS*H101
ART*H102	ENG*H214	ENG*H232	ENG*H274	THR*H101
COM*H157	ENG*H215	ENG*H241	ENG*H277	THR*H110
DAN*H101	ENG*H221	ENG*H242	ENG*H278	
ENG*H102	ENG*H222	ENG*H251	LAS*H201	

ECE 103 fulfills Aesthetic Dimensions for students in Early Childhood Education Program.
HRT 202 fulfills Aesthetic Dimensions for students in Horticulture Program.

Continuing Learning and Information Literacy • Complete one of the following courses for 3 credits.

CSA*H105	DAT*H101	ECN*H102
CSC*H101	ECN*H101	TCN*H101

EET 104 & EET 294, taken sequentially, fulfill Continuing Learning and Information Literacy for students in the Electronic Engineering Program.
ECE 109 fulfills Continuing Learning and Information Literacy for students in the Early Childhood Education Program.
PTA 125 fulfills Continuing Learning and Information Literacy for students in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program.
RSP 281 & RSP 282, taken sequentially, fulfill Continuing Learning and Information Literacy for students in the Respiratory Therapy Program.

Critical Analysis and Logical Thinking • See specific program requirements on how to fulfill this competency.

COM*H100	ENG*H200	ENG*H221	ENG*H242	ENG*H278	PHL*H112
COM*H157	ENG*H202	ENG*H222	ENG*H251	HRT*H222	PSY*H201
CSC*H101	ENG*H211	ENG*H231	ENG*H269	HRT*H224	PSY*H245
ENG*H101	ENG*H214	ENG*H232	ENG*H274	PHL*H101	SOC*H201
ENG*H102	ENG*H215	ENG*H241	ENG*H277	PHL*H111	

Ethical Dimensions • See specific program requirements on how to fulfill this competency.

CSA*H105	DAT*H101	ECN*H102
CSC*H101	ECN*H101	TCN*H101

EET 110 fulfills Ethical Dimensions for students in the Electronic Engineering Technology Program. PTA 120 fulfills Ethical Dimensions for students in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program.
RSP 141 fulfills Ethical Dimensions for students in the Respiratory Therapy Program.

Historical Knowledge and Understanding • Complete one of the following courses for 3 credits

BBG*H231	HIS*H102	HIS*H202	POL*H103
HIS*H101	HIS*H201	LAS*H201	POL*H111

Oral Communication • Complete one of the following courses for 3 credits.

COM*H100	COM*H173
ESL*H157	

Quantitative Reasoning • Complete one of the following courses for 3 credits.

MAT*H121*	MAT*H143	MAT*H167	MAT*H232	MAT*H268
MAT*H122*	MAT*H144	MAT*H172	MAT*H254	MAT*H285
MAT*H135*	MAT*H146	MAT*H185	MAT*H256	HRT*H224

*indicates course is not accepted for transfer as part of the CSCU TAP Pathways agreement

Scientific Knowledge and Understanding • Complete one of the following courses for 3-4 credits.

AST*H101	BIO*H115	BIO*H171	BIO*H235	HRT*H102
AST*H111	BIO*H121	BIO*H180	CHE*H111	PHY*H110
BIO*H105	BIO*H122	BIO*H181	CHE*H121	PHY*H122
BIO*H110	BIO*H126	BIO*H211	CHE*H122	PHY*H221
BIO*H111	BIO*H155		GLG*H121	PHY*H222

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Scientific Reasoning • Complete one of the following courses for 3-4 credits.

BIO*H105	BIO*H155	CHE*H111	CSC*H252	HRT*H222	PHY*H122
BIO*H115	BIO*H181	CHE*H121	DAN*H175	HRT*H224	PHY*H221
BIO*H121	BIO*H212	CHE*H122	DAR*H158	PHY*H110	PHY*H222
BIO*H122	BIO*H235	CSC*H250	GLG*H121	PHY*H121	

Social Phenomena • Complete one of the following courses for 3 credits.

ANT*H101	COM*H101	ECN*H101	LAS*H201	PSY*H245
ANT*H121	COM*H172	ECN*H102	PSY*H111	PSY*H260
ANT*H205	COM*H202	GEO*H111	PSY*H201	SOC*H101

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Written Communication • Complete two of the following courses for 6 credits.

ENG*H101	ENG*H211	ENG*H222	ENG*H242	ENG*H277
ENG*H102	ENG*H214	ENG*H231	ENG*H251	ENG*H278
ENG*H200	ENG*H215	ENG*H232	ENG*H269	ESL*H162
ENG*H202	ENG*H221	ENG*H241	ENG*H274	ESL*H169