Academic Requirements

Understanding General Education

You’ll be studying here!
This presentation will introduce you to the General Education (GE) requirements at UCSB.

This might seem complicated but please don’t worry. The College of Engineering academic advisors will assist you in planning your GE courses.
A helpful resource: GEAR (General Education & Academic Requirements)
http://engineering.ucsb.edu/current_undergraduates/publications/

- Booklet published each year showing all requirements
- General Education (GE) information located at beginning of booklet
- Requirements for graduation
  - University of California
  - University of California, Santa Barbara
  - College of Engineering General Education
  - Major (Curriculum sheet and grid)
- Course descriptions and prerequisites
- Information about CoE programs
This is the GE worksheet (page 21 in GEAR).

Track your progress on this chart.

Some of your AP or IB coursework may fulfill some requirements. See pages 7-9 in GEAR.

Check with a College of Engineering academic advisor if you have any questions.
University of California Requirement: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement

ALL STUDENTS who will enter the University of California as freshmen must demonstrate their command of the English language by fulfilling the Entry Level Writing Requirement (formerly known as Subject A requirement).

- Students can meet this requirement by scoring:
  - 30 or better on the ACT, English Language Arts; or
  - 30 or better on the ACT, Combined English/Writing (last administered June 2015); or
  - 680 or better on the College Board SAT Reasoning Test, Writing (last administered January 2016); or
  - 3 or above on either Advanced Placement Examination in English; or
  - 5 or above on an International Baccalaureate Higher Level English A: Literature exam (formerly known as Higher Level English A1 exam); or
  - 6 or above on an International Baccalaureate Standard Level English A: Literature exam (formerly known as Standard Level English A1 exam); or
  - 5 or above on an International Baccalaureate Higher Level English A: Language and Literature exam; or
  - 6 or above on an International Baccalaureate Standard Level English A: Language and Literature exam

The requirement can also be met by earning a grade of C or higher in an acceptable English composition course offered by a college or university.
University of California Requirement: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement

If you have not met the Entry Level Writing Requirement by the time you matriculate (enroll) at UCSB you must take the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (for domestic students) or the English Language Placement Exam (for international students).

Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) Information: http://www.writing.ucsb.edu/academics/undergrad/awpe

English Language Placement Exam (ELPE) Information: http://www.ems.ucsb.edu/news/announcement/250
University of California Requirement: American History and Institutions

All undergraduate degree programs at UC require study in American history and institutions.

How to fulfill the AH&I requirement at UCSB:

1. Score of 3 or higher on AP American History or American Government and Politics
2. Passing non-credit examination in American History or American Institutions offered by History Department
3. Score of 650 or higher on SAT II: American History
4. Complete a 4-unit course (see GEAR for list)
5. International students on a nonimmigrant visa may petition for a waiver of this requirement through the Director of International Students and Scholars (http://oiss.sa.ucsb.edu/).
College of Engineering, General Education Requirements: Area A, English Reading and Composition

Area A1: Students must complete Writing 2 or 2E*

Area A2: Students must complete Writing 50, 50E*, 107T, or 109ST.

*Writing 2E and 50E: open to first year students in Chemical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering

NOTE: Students must complete the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement before enrolling in courses that fulfill the Area A requirement of the General Education program.
College of Engineering,
General Education Requirements:
Areas D, E, F, G, and H

Areas D, E, F, G or H: A minimum of 6 courses are required:

• 2 courses must be from Areas D & E (Social Sciences and Culture and Thought)
• 2 courses must be from Areas F & G (Arts and Literature)
• 2 courses remaining can be from Areas D, E, F, G or H (H: Foreign Language)

Notes (see GEAR or academic advisor for guidance):

1. AP, IB, A-level, and transfer credit may reduce the number of GE courses required.

2. Each course may be applied to only ONE GE Area D, E, F, G or H.

3. ONLY UCSB Academic Senate approved courses will apply to GE.
College of Engineering, General Education Requirements: Special Subject Area Requirements

- * Writing – maximum 4 courses (may only be completed at UCSB)
- & Ethnicity – 1 course
- ^ European Traditions – 1 course

Review [GEAR](#) or [GOLD](#) for applicable courses.

Usually you can find a course that fulfills both a D, E, F, G, or H requirement as well as a Special Subject Area requirement. College of Engineering Academic Advisors can help you plan your GE courses.
College of Engineering, General Education Requirements: Depth Requirement

3 Options to Fulfill

**Option 1:** Complete at least 2 upper division GE courses from 2 separate departments in each of which you have completed another GE course.

Example:

- Course 1: Philosophy 1
- Course 2: Philosophy 100A
- Course 3: Art History 5A
- Course 4: Art History 113A

Note: All courses must be approved for Areas D, E, F, G, or H, American History and Institutions, or Special Subject Areas (Writing, Ethnicity, or European Traditions).
College of Engineering, General Education Requirements: Depth Requirement

(Continued – 3 Options to Fulfill)

**Option 2:** Complete a 3-course series from the approved list in GEAR (page 11).

Example: Chicano Studies 1A, 1B, and 1C

**Option 3:** Complete a minor from the approved list in GEAR (page 11).

Example: Minor in Anthropology.

If you do not understand the depth requirement, ask an academic advisor in the College of Engineering.
College of Engineering, General Education Requirements

Additional provisions pertaining to GE requirements:

- No more than 2 courses from the same department may be applied to Areas D, E, F, G and H.
  - Option 2 of the Depth Requirement is the only exception.

- Each course may be applied to only one GE Area D, E, F, G, or H.

- A single course may apply to both a Area D, E, F, G, or H and the American History and Institutions, Ethnicity, European Traditions, or Writing Requirements.
Other UCSB Requirements for Graduation

Grade Point Average

At graduation, a minimum **2.0 UC GPA** is required in three areas:

1. Cumulative: All units attempted on a letter graded basis
2. Major: All units required for and applicable to the major (both lower and upper division)
3. Upper-Division Major: All units required for and applicable to the upper division major

Academic Residence

Students must complete:

- 3 regular terms within the UC System
- 27 upper division units at UCSB
- 20 upper division major units at UCSB
- 35 of final 45 units at UCSB

Unit Requirement

A minimum 180 quarter units is required for graduation. All majors in the College of Engineering require more than 180 units. Refer to your major for the required total number of units to complete the major.
Beware of duplicate matriculation

- You cannot receive credit for courses that you have already completed. This includes AP/IB, community college, other universities, and UCSB coursework.

- Please consult with an advisor if a class you are interested in taking sounds like a course you have already taken.
Wait Lists and Crashing
Is the class you want full?

- Consult the department website to see if a crash or wait list policy is posted.
- If it is a course for your major, speak with your major department or College of Engineering office.
- Add yourself to the waitlist via GOLD if there is one available.
- Attend the first course meeting
Questions?

For any questions regarding this information, please contact the College of Engineering
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