

QUESTION:

Associate Dean Meg Daly (on behalf of OAA, in her role with respect to oversight of the new General Education program) has determined that the rule permitting NO overlap between major courses and courses in the GE Foundations applies in all cases, including when students have multiple majors. Does ASCC agree with this determination with respect to multiple majors? If not, should ASCC make a request to CAA to allow such overlap in cases of multiple majors?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Under the Legacy General Education curriculum, overlap between a major and the GE is not permitted. One exception to this rule was stipulated at the time the GE was revised for semesters. That exception allows for overlap between a major and the GE Data Analysis requirement for the BA degree, when the major includes a course that has been approved for Data Analysis.

The ASCC approved an additional exception for students who complete multiple majors. That is, when a student is completing a second (or third, etc.) major, any courses in the majors that also are approved GE courses are permitted to fulfill both a major requirement and the GE category for which they are approved. ***The rationale for this exception is twofold:***

- For many students, the overlap of one or more courses may allow them to complete an additional major without extending time to degree.
- Some ASC departments offer major courses that also are approved for a GE category. When a student pursuing a single major from another department takes such courses, the courses can fulfill the GE requirement for which they have been approved. If the student then decides to add a second major in that area, it is not logical to disallow those courses from counting in the GE simply because they also count in the second major. (That seems to be penalizing the student for deciding to complete an entire second major that includes the approved GE courses.)

Note the following:

- There is a limit on such overlap, in that each of the two majors must have at least 18 unique hours aside from the overlapping courses.
- It would be exceedingly rare for a student's program to allow the opportunity to overlap more than one or two major courses with the GE, both because most majors don't have that many GE courses and also because most majors don't include courses that would fall into more than one GE category.
- Some departments do not have any GE courses that also are approved to count for their major, so the ability for students to take advantage of the GE/major overlap is not universal.

Under the new GE, overlap between Foundations and the major is not permitted. The current "rule" is that this is true even if a student has multiple majors. ***The rationale for that thinking is twofold:***

- The GE is now significantly smaller (see page 3 for a comparison of the required courses), allowing for more "elective" hours in most programs, so the need for overlap with respect to time to degree is not so strong; and
- The new GE allows for overlap between the Themes and the major (one course per theme), so overlap with the Foundations should not be needed.

Note the following:

- Because the new GE has fewer "categories," any permissible overlap between Foundations and major would likely be limited to just one course (as most majors will not include courses that fit into more than one area).
- A significant number of our students enter the university with EM or CCP credit for courses that fulfill one or more of the Foundations, so overlap would be a moot point for many students.
- As noted above under the Legacy GE, some departments do not have any GE courses that also are approved to count for the major, so the ability for students to take advantage of the GE/major overlap would not be universal.

Degree requirements with Legacy GE

121 hours required:

- GE = 43-60 hours
- Major = 30-36 hours (most)
- “Electives” = 25-48 hours

Overlap rules:

- If single major: Overlap between GE and major is not permitted.
- If multiple majors (but single degree): Overlap between GE and major is permitted, as long as each major has at least 18 unique hours aside from the overlapping courses.

For most ASC majors:

- The “electives” area allows enough (or close to enough) hours to complete a second major without extending time-to-degree beyond four years.
- This is especially true for students who come in with K and/or EM credit that fulfills some of their degree requirements, as they still plan to be here for four years and so have the flexibility to do minors and/or second majors without extending that time frame.
- Most students enroll for 15-16 hours per term, for four years (8 semesters), so they have ample time to complete a second major, even without any major/GE overlap. (Allowing such overlap just frees up hours to take other course work, such as electives, minors, certificates, etc.)

For some B.S.-degree majors:

- There are prerequisite courses that fill some GE areas and also “eat up” some elective hours. For these students especially, the ability to overlap some courses between other GE areas and a second major has made it more feasible to complete the second major and still graduate in four years.
- Many of these students come in with significant K and/or EM credit for GE course work, which may allow them to complete a second major in four years but may not provide the additional flexibility for minors, more elective courses, etc.

Degree requirements with new GE

121 hours required:

- GE = 30-34 hours
- Major = 30-36 hours (most)
- “Electives” = 51-61 hours

Overlap rules:

- Per the new GE rules, two courses in the major can overlap with Themes (one course with each theme).
- Overlap between Foundations and major is not permitted, regardless of how many majors a student has.

For most ASC majors:

- The “electives” area now allows more than enough hours to complete a second major without extending time-to-degree beyond four years.
- Again, this is especially true for students who come in with K and/or EM credit that fulfills some of their degree requirements, as most still plan to be here for four years and so have the flexibility to do minors and/or second majors without extending that time frame.
- Most students enroll for 15-16 hours per term, for four years (8 semesters), so they have ample time to complete a second major, even without any major/GE overlap. (Allowing such overlap just frees up hours to take other course work, such as electives, minors, certificates, etc.)

For some B.S.-degree majors:

- With fewer GE areas/requirements, the prerequisite courses now “eat up” more of the elective hours than under the Legacy GE. For these students, the ability to overlap even one course between Foundations and second major may make it more feasible to complete a second major and still graduate in four years.
- Many of these students come in with significant K and/or EM credit, but with a smaller GE, those hours typically become elective credits that count towards degree hours but don’t necessarily provide flexibility for minors, second majors, etc.

GE COURSE COMPARISONS

LEGACY GE – minimum 15* requirements	NEW GE – minimum 9*** requirements
1. Writing and Related Skills first course (3 hrs)	1. Writing and Information Literacy (3 hrs)
2. Writing and Related Skills second course (3 hrs)	
3. Quantitative/Logical Skills – math/logical analysis (3-5 hrs)	2. Math/Quantitative Reasoning/Data Analysis (3 hrs; could also require up to 9 hrs of remedial course work)
4. Data Analysis (0-3 hrs)	
5. Literature (3 hrs)	3. Literary, Visual, & Performing Arts (3 hrs)
6. Visual and Performing Arts (3 hrs)	
7. Social Science first course (3 hrs)	4. Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 hrs)
8. Social Science second course (3 hrs)	
9. Historical Study (3 hrs)	5. Historical and Cultural Studies (3 hrs)
10. Cultures & Ideas/Second Historical Study (3 hrs)	
11. Natural Science – biological science (3-4 hrs)**	6. Natural Sciences (4 hrs)
12. Natural Science – physical science (3-5 hrs)**	
13. Natural Science – third course (3 hrs)**	
14. Open Options - first course (3 hrs)	7. Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Diversity (3 hrs)
15. Open Options second course (3 hrs)	
	8. Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World (4-6 hrs)
	9. Choice Theme (4-6 hrs)
World Language (0-12 hrs)	World Language (0-12 hrs)
<p>*Note that this number is the minimum number of courses but can (and will) vary from student to student, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #3 could require 2-5 courses, depending on where a student begins in math (possibly remedial course work) and whether they need calculus (for the BS degree) • #4 could be 0-1 course. For the BA degree, this is the area that allows overlap with the major even if it's a single major. For the BS degree, the data analysis requirement is built into the major and so does not require a separate GE course. • World Language will require anywhere from 0 courses (for native speakers of a language other than English who are thereby exempt from this requirement) to 3 courses (for beginning language learners who must start in 1101 and complete through 1103). <p>**Note regarding hours: Natural Science (#11-13) requires 10 total hours, but the course combination may result in more than 10 hours.</p>	<p>***Note that this number is the minimum number of courses but can (and will) vary from student to student, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #2 could, in effect, require 2-5 courses, depending on where a student begins in math (possibly remedial course work) and whether they need calculus (for the BS degree) • #8 and #9 each could be either 1 or 2 courses, depending on whether students choose one 4-hour course or two 3-hour courses to fulfill the theme. • World Language is no longer technically a part of the GE, but our students still must complete this requirement, so we have included it here. This will require anywhere from 0 courses (for native speakers of a language other than English who are thereby exempt from this requirement) to 3 courses (for beginning language learners who must start in 1101 and complete through 1103).
Total GE hours: 43-60 (plus remedial math hours if required).	Total GE hours: 30-34; additional college requirement of World Language (0-12 hours) = 30-46 hours total (plus remedial math hours if required).