

## Notes on General Education

*Not for general distribution*

**What is General Education?** The University of Maryland offers a transformative general education program that will help you succeed in your career and become an engaged, global citizen. You will

- Advance your reasoning, problem solving, speaking, and writing skills and begin to use them in all aspects of your life;
- Discover new knowledge.... about the natural world, the past, and human thought and action; which will
- Further your understanding of our universe and empower you to meet its challenges.

**How is it similar to other colleges/universities?** You will:

- Study humanities (literature, arts), history and social sciences (history, psychology, sociology, criminal justice) and the natural sciences (physics, biology, chemistry, astronomy)
- Select the courses you wish to take. This allows you to take a course in a subject of interest to you, or you could try something new!

**How is it different from other colleges/universities?**

I-Series courses: “I-Series” courses are the signature feature of the new General Education program. In these you will:

- Tackle big important questions ( the kinds of questions that are complicated... questions without obvious solutions and questions related to contemporary problems)
  - Examine the ways in which diverse intellectual traditions and disciplinary protocols address these questions
- “I” stands for imagination, innovation, issues, implementation, investigation, inspiration, and intellect.

Examples of Courses:

*Collisions in Space: The Threat of Asteroid Impacts*

*Cross-Examining Climate Change*

*Information 3.0: Exploring Technological Tools*

*The Power of Musical Performance in Social Engagement*

*Why Good Managers Make Bad Decisions*

*Hot Spots: Violence, Catastrophe and Civilian Conflict Worldwide in Historical Perspective*

*Philosophical Issues: The Rights and Wrongs of Killing People*

Scholarship in Practice: In “Scholarship in Practice” courses, you will engage in authentic work of a particular field of study. You will learn and practice skills of critical evaluation and participate in the process of applying knowledge in the pursuit of a tangible goal. In a “Scholarship in Practice” course, you might:

- Draft a business plan
- Compose original poetry
- Develop a curriculum
- Write a grant proposal,
- Create a software program,
- Produce a documentary
- Design an architectural space.

Examples of Courses:

*Applied Ethics and Public Policy in Bioengineering*

*Contemporary Issues in Entrepreneurship and Innovation*

*The Future of Energy and Climate Policy: Money, Influence, and the Competing Strategies to Influence Power*

*Disability Studies: Stories, Law, and Social Policy*

*Special Topics in Contemporary Chinese Fiction and Film*

*Citizens & Leaders: Performing Politics & Presidential Campaigns*

*Introduction to Political Ethics*

Diversity: In the two required “Diversity” courses, you will explore human, social, and cultural differences.

”Diversity” courses may be designated as “Understanding Plural Societies” or “Cultural Competence” courses.

- “Understanding Plural Societies” courses examine how diverse cultural and ethnic groups co-exist.

Examples of Courses:

*Global Poverty and Economic Development*

*The Contemporary American Musical Theatre: From Hair to Hairspray*

*United States Immigration Issues*

*Hot Spots: Violence, Catastrophe and Civilian Conflict Worldwide*

*Special Topics in Contemporary Chinese Fiction and Film*

*Language, Identity and Diversity in the U.S.*

*Arabic Literature in Translation: Writing Lives in Arabic*

- “Cultural Competence” courses help you develop skills to succeed in a diverse world.

Examples of Courses:

*Essentials of Intercultural Communication*

*French Cinema: A Cultural Approach*

*Portuguese Culture*

*Ensemble African Drumming*

*Ensemble Korean Percussion Ensemble*

*Model United Nations*

### Other Changes

- You will no longer be exempted from Math or Academic Writing (ENGL 101) based on SAT scores.
- An A in Academic Writing will no longer provide an exemption from Professional Writing (ENGL 39X).
- You may use AP/IB courses for Fundamental Studies and Distributive Studies, but will only be allowed to apply a maximum of six courses to Distributive Studies. At this point, there are no AP/IB courses that give credit for the “Scholarship and Practice” requirement. You may bring in more than six AP/IB courses, but only six will apply to Distributive Studies.